

DIARY

Minority ethnic report

There are ways of getting your own way.

I would not be surprised if Lord Swann has set a rather smart precedent in his chairing of the committee on multi-ethnic education which has recently produced its long awaited report.

Lord Swann and some members of the committee were at odds over some of the more controversial aspects such as the degree of racism in schools. The full report duly reflects the majority view. But at 800 pages and costing £24 how many teachers will read it?

They are, of course, more likely to read the 13-page summary which is being sent free to every school and was written, without the knowledge of the rest of the committee, by Lord Swann himself. The summary echoes words like racism and even the word race altogether. Indeed it bears the most startling resemblance to chapter 3 of the full report, an achievement, which was also written by Lord Swann.

My colleague Diane Spencer, who has been following the six-year-long machinations of the committee, admitted the press conference announcing the report's conclusions to describe his "personal overview".

Some members of the committee now feel rather let down by the chairman, one said: "More damage will be done by this summary than anything else."

Dinner invites for head with sauce

What happens to a comprehensive head who publicly denounces teachers in private schools as "educational prostitutes"?

The much-publicized remark was made by Brian Tyler, head of Kingswood School in Corby, Northants, during the BBC series on his school a couple of years ago.

It seems that it pays to be rude. Mr Tyler's straight talking has resulted in him being vined and dined at private schools up and down the country. However, that doesn't seem to have changed his mind.

"I don't regret the educational prostitute line," Mr Tyler says. "It was a reasonable literary image. But I do have a romantic attraction for the places, and one is envious of the resources the good ones have."

"I have been invited to a lot of public schools since the series. I find the sixth-form polite and interested but ultimately ignorant. They keep telling me that ordinary people spend money on bingo and two cars and that's why they can't send their children to private schools."

As for Kingswood itself, it seems to have settled back into its routine as a happy and successful school after its blaze of publicity. The series wasn't wholly popular with the Corby locals, but it clearly had a following among



Brian Tyler: no regrets

teachers. The school now gets hundreds of applications for every job vacancy.

And there are other side-effects of being media stars. Viewers sent the school over £2,000 for its work with the socially disadvantaged which was featured in the series. The school also received a £1,750 fee from the BBC - £250 more than the fee paid to Redley School for the series the BBC did on it. No doubt that brought a smile to Brian Tyler's lips.

Lapping up bad publicity

Is there no justice? I summoned up the full venom of my pen some months ago to deride a publication on what a teacher needs to do to get promotion (namely suck up to the head, clean the school, volunteer for non-contractual duties etc). Do the authors sue, send round the heavies, put an injunction on the paper? No, they write to thank me. Sales shot up and they became stars of local radio.

Not what I intended at all. The authors are Ron and Joyce Cave (who sound as if they should have been in that thing on the wireless years back with Ronnie Barker and June Whitfield). He is a former chief inspector for Cambridgeshire, she the senior primary adviser with the same I.e.a.

Feminist frolics

If Sir Keith Joseph should change his mind again, and decide to abolish the Inner London Education Authority, the ILEA leader, Frances Morrell, could embark on a new career as an actor-manager.

Mrs Morrell showed a hitherto unrelaxed talent at the weekend in producer, director, scriptwriter-in-chief and cast member of an extremely funny feminist revue to raise money for a group trying to get more women

Their impressive letterhead has addresses in England and Spain.

They now have a new booklet aimed at teachers wanting to get into the advisory service. It guides them through what the job involves and the interview process (I liked the tip not to ask too detailed questions as they might make the CEO or chief inspector look stupid). The Caves still have their suspiciously sexist obsession with interviewees not dressing to look younger than they are: "Beware of the old hen trying to look like a young chicken type of criticism."

All in all, the book's terrible, horrible, appalling. I expect to see it zoom to the top of the best-sellers list.

L.e.a. Inspection And Advisory Work, by Ron and Joyce Cave, Educational Consultants, 6 Tithe Close, Gazeley, Newmarket, Suffolk. £3.50 (cheques made out to "Educational Consultants").



All dressed up... Frances Morrell

Picture: Andrew Wood
Noon anthem into "Do not forsake me, oh my comrade on this our budget day", with the memorable line, "I do not know what rate awaits me".

Labour leader Neil Kinnock was invited to the show, but was unable to attend. His alleged lack of sympathy with the party's feminists was parodied on stage by one of the cast. I thought would look this fact to his public relations officer, Patricia Hewitt, who discovered that the person doing the parodying was the self-same Patricia Hewitt.

David Lister

Educational Supplement

MONDAY APRIL 5 1988 NUMBER 3688

Vocational course jungle to be cleared

by Biddy Passmore

A complete overhaul of vocational qualifications for 14 to 18-year-olds is a key proposal of the White Paper on provision for that age group, published yesterday.

The Manpower Services Commission is to set up a working group to turn the existing jungle of courses into a coherent structure, allowing young people to progress from one stage to the next - and providing an alternative route to higher education and professional qualifications.

But its first concern will be to develop the "recognized vocational qualification" which young people are to receive on completing two years on the new, expanded Youth Training Scheme. (A two-year YTS, announced in the Budget, is the White Paper's other main proposal.)

A working report will be submitted to the Education and Employment Ministers in September and the final report, with an agreed timetable, must be completed within a year.

The White Paper, which was masterminded by Lord Young of Grafton, head of the Prime Minister's Enterprise Unit, is based on the recommendations of a group he chaired. But it was also signed by Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, and the Scottish, Welsh, Trade and Industry and Employment Secretaries.

The White Paper stresses Britain's

poor record on vocational education and training compared with our chief industrial competitors such as the USA, Japan and West Germany.

In other countries, it points out, employers contribute a much bigger share of training and young people are treated as learners, at least until the age of 18.

The UK must produce a very much larger flow of qualified young workers to meet the employment needs of existing and new technologies, it concludes. The Government's target should be that all young people enter the labour market with a qualification - either general or work-related - relevant to employment.

The White Paper contains a more cautious pledge on the expansion of YTS than the unconditional guarantee of places apparently given by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

When the new scheme starts in April next year, it says, the initial guarantee will still be only to provide one year places for all 16-year-olds and as many places as possible for other 16 and 17-year-olds "within the resources available".

The target will be to guarantee "in due course" the offer of a two-year place for all 16-year-olds and a one-year place for all 17-year-olds.

Labour I.e.a.s may escape strikes

by David Lister and Richard Garner

introduce merit pay next year.

Teacher unions reacted with predictable anger to reports that Cabinet ministers would consider proposals to give extra money to outstanding teachers, and those in maths, physics and computers subjects with staff shortages.

The scheme, endorsed by Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary and Mr George Younger, the Scottish Secretary, would mean abolishing current efforts to negotiate a complete restructuring of teachers' salaries, at an estimated cost of another 7½ per cent on the pay bill, for merit payments costing an extra £100m (2½ per cent).

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said Sir Keith's latest idea was "even more likely to infuriate teachers" than anything he had said before.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said the scheme would torpedo any chance of a long-term solution to school pay problems.

Leaders of the management side said they knew nothing of the plan. One difficulty with the scheme would be that I.e.a.s would face heavy financial penalties unless their targets were increased as well as the rate support grant. And it would be illegal to let the teachers' money unless a settlement had been agreed in the Burnham committee.

The only way the second obstacle could be overcome would be by separate legislation.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the NAS/UTW, made it clear this week that the dispute could best be solved by arbitration, if the employers moved from their 4 per cent offer.

● The union which represents Her Majesty's Inspectors is urging them to vote "no" in a secret ballot over the Government's plans to introduce a system of merit payments of at least £500 a year.

The First Division Association, which is organizing the ballot, is hoping the results can be used to persuade the DES to press for the inspectors to

be exempted from the scheme. According to the association, its 400 HMI members would find the proposals disturbing and feel any merit payment plan could be used to reward who the Government like rather than provide unbiased information.

The association said it did not know when the results would be known as it was relying on the post for the ballot.

The Government has announced it intends to earmark £12 million over the next year for its "performance bonus" scheme throughout the civil service. Up to 650 top civil servants at the DES - including the HMIs - could be eligible.

The Government intends to limit the scheme to 20 per cent of those eligible for the bonuses - so, in the case of the DES, 130 officials could receive them. It has said no individual annual bonus payment should be less than £500 a year - although special single lump sum payments amounting to less can be paid at the discretion of the departmental head.

Pay and the unions - page 5



Lord Hallham

Enoch knocking

Mrs Thatcher held teachers responsible for the violence of Millwall's soccer fans. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hallham, said she was wrong. In the Edwardian era, the Lord Chancellor was a powerful figure. He held the education system partly responsible not only for football hooliganism but also for drug-taking, soft and hard porn, the naked contempt for lawful authority and even "premature or bizarre forms of sex,"

... quite a lot to fit on to the timetable.

But Lord Hallham reserved his real venom, not for the nation's teachers, but for his one-time Cabinet colleague Enoch Powell whose recent speech on education criticizing the present Government was reprinted in *The TES*.

Lord Hallham described Mr Powell's words as "vacuous", wondering if he had "taken leave of his senses" and concluded that he was "talking the nonsense of neophalococcyria rather than practical politics or true political philosophy." Mr Powell cannot sue for libel. No jury would know what neophalococcyria means.

NOTICEBOARD

PEOPLE...

Mr Kenneth Milne, head of Burroughs School, has been appointed to be head of Northwood Road primary school, Southport.

Mr Nigel Johnson, housemaster at Loughborough grammar school, to be master of Brandeston Hall, Framlingham College junior school, from September.

Mr K. Bawtree, head of Kingsmead School, Hoylake, to be head of Great Westhead School, Lindsfield, on the retirement of Mr Gordon Parke.

Professor Robert Pinker, professor of Social Work Studies at the London School of Economics, to be Pro-Director of the school for three years in succession to Professor Michael Wise, who retires from the post in September.

Mr Norman Willis to be a vice-president of the Institute of Manpower Studies.

Mr David Howells to succeed Mr Ron Stephenson as chief executive of the Skills Centre Training Agency, Manpower Services Commission.

CONFERENCES...

April 9-12 Incorporated Society of Musicians conference at the Royal Academy of Music, London. Includes sessions on

early music in the classroom, the changing role of the instrumental teacher, music and disabled people and orchestral training. Details ISM, 10 Stratford Place, London W1N 9AE.

April 12-14

"The Experience of Learning" an international conference to be held at the University of Loughborough on the curriculum. Speakers include Professor Elliott Elner, Professor David Jenkins and Mrs Rosemary Peacock. Details from Karen Simmonds, Registrar, West Sussex Institute of Higher Education, The Dome, Upper Bognor Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 1HR.

April 14-17

Further Education Staff College study conference on BTEC development - monitoring quality, at Coombe Lodge, College principals, vice-principals, college coordinators of BTEC work, I.e.a. officers and advisers are invited to apply. Fee £60. Details from the Registrar, FESC, Coombe Lodge, Blagdon, Bristol BS18 6RG.

April 24

A Sense of Vocation a conference to examine the strategies leading to successful vocational education 14-19 at Robert Hyde House, 48 Brynston Square, London W17 7LN. Speakers include

Jack Mansell and Lord Young. Fee £51.75 including lunch. Details from Louise Brokensha, Education for Industrial Society at the above address.

April 27 East Midlands CSCS conference on Education for Capability at Sinfon Community School, Derby.

COURSES...

From April 18 Training in Group Work a course of 10 evening sessions and two non-residential weekends for teachers, supervisors, youth workers, clergy and personnel managers, at Whitelands College, Putney. Details from Christopher Jarman, RICE Office, Digby Stuart College, Roehampton Lane, London SW18 5PH.

June 17-19 Staff working with physically handicapped people are offered a non-residential course in personal relationships and sexuality. Details from the Education Unit, The Family Planning Association, 27-35 Mortimer Street, London W1M 7RJ.

July 8-9 Historical Association refresher course for history teachers of fifth and sixth forms at St Chad's College, Durham. Details from Professor G. Batho, School of Education, University of Durham, Leazes Road, Durham DH1 1TA.

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EVENTS...

April 4, 9 and 11 Activities for children aged 7 to 13 at the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery, Castle Close, Bedford. Details from Miss Elaine Grubert, the curator, on 0234 211222.

Sixth form college libraries group meeting at Manchester Polytechnic Library School. Includes reports on school libraries and the curriculum and self-supported study and its implications for the library. Details from the chairman, Peter Garland, Farnham College, Morley Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8LU.

April 12

A meeting to agree the constitution of the proposed Post-16 Network to be set up by the City of Sheffield. Education Department at Birmingham College of Food and Domestic Arts. Details from Mick Farley, Education Department, PO Box 67, Leopold Street, Sheffield S1 1R.

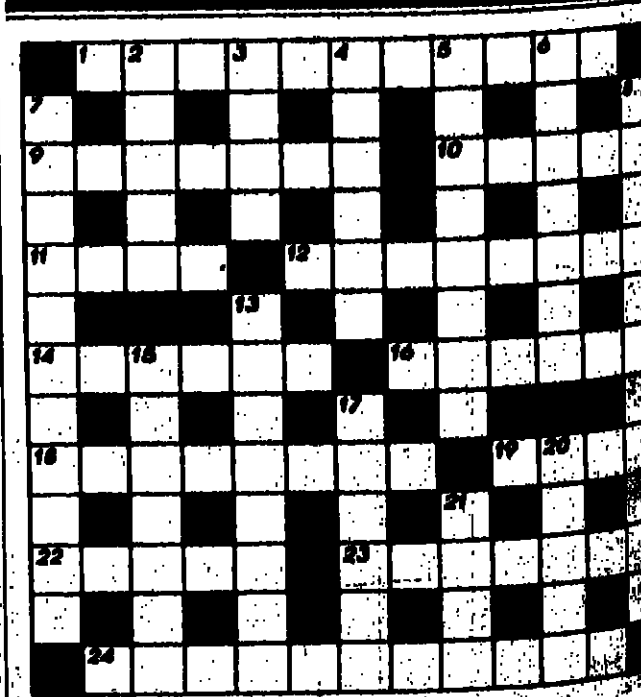
April 13

Commonwealth Secretariat Education of Out-of-School Children contains eight case studies of selected non-formal learning programmes in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. It is available from Commonwealth Secretariat Publications, Marlborough House, London SW1Y 6PH, price £2.

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No196 CROSSWORD by Rufus



Across

1 Not a single mistake by a serviceman (6, 5)
9 Radio makes sound use of them (7)
10 Animal comes from Asia and is taken in by father (5)
11 I'd turn about with calamitous consequences (4)
12 The area isn't developed well (6)
14 Fixed form of dental (6)
16 Perhaps gifted young scholars may, one told not to (6)
18 One type of disease in the French game (8)
19 Eye-catching object (4)
22 Gifted artist on

Down

2 Bird for a chest with-out a top (5)
3 He wrote music for half the band and part of the orchestra (4)
4 Possibly run and see to make certain (6)
5 Sweet disorder in the bed (5, 3)
6 School of medical practice (7)
7 I throw light on what he said with-in (7, 4)
8 Father, in making

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Value of A levels doubted

by Diane Spencer

A criterion referencing system for A levels along the lines of the 16 plus is being considered by the Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, and his advisers.

The scheme, endorsed by Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary and Mr George Younger, the Scottish Secretary, would mean abolishing current efforts to negotiate a complete restructuring of teachers' salaries, at an estimated cost of another 7½ per cent on the pay bill, for merit payments costing an extra £100m (2½ per cent).

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THIS WEEK

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Confidence debate

A motion of no confidence in the NAS/UTW leadership is to be debated at the union's conference next week.

16-plus criteria

Joan Marsh Kirkham completes her subject-by-subject guide to the 16-plus criteria.

Platform

Maurice Pashon argues that another Houghton would have to link pay to responsibility.

Passion for peace

A teaching nun (pictured right) explains why she believes following Jesus means risking prison to fight sexual exploitation and nuclear weapons.

Adds up to minus

The quality and quantity of recruits to maths teaching are in decline.

Books in class

Languages

Arts/Books

Secrecy: the future - Sir Patrick Nairne on freedom of information; Michael Church on television drama; Rupert Christiansen on Dorothy Wordsworth; Lynne Truss previews BBC2's *Bleak House*; Poetry Carnival UK; literary competition 21-24, 33

Resources Software/Media

A (working) young artist to

microtechnology; economics and maths programs and a gliding simulation; Nick Baker on a new type of television history; plus Pigeon Street and Foxholes 34-36

EXTRA

Reading: Bullock revisited; Ken and Yvonne Goodman interviewed; the parents' contribution; the latest schemes reviewed; book boxes; the Kalafatis of poetry; rhymes; reviews

Lord Young's blueprint

Lord Young's White Paper on education and training bears the hallmarks of the mint from which it has come. It is a bit flashy. There are some grand statements of conviction together with important expressions of hope that British employers will see the light. It is shot through with a sense of urgency, linked to the mountain of evidence that Britain's major trading competitors all take industrial training and vocational education a great deal more seriously than we do.

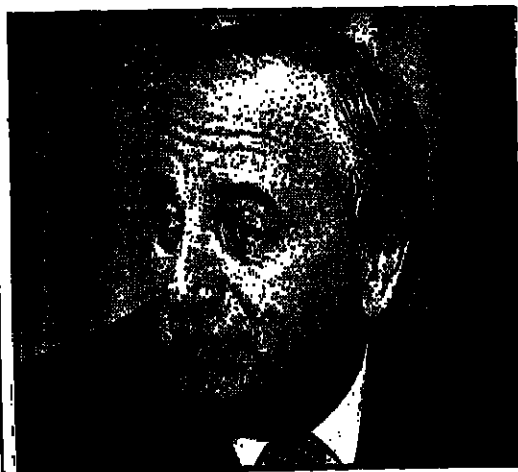
The fact that this evidence has been around for so long, and industry's dereliction of duty is so long-established, has not diminished the Government's determination to rely heavily on industry's own response: while spending on education and training is to be maintained, it is voluntary spending by industry which is expected to increase.

The main outline of the White Paper is formed by a series of policy decisions which have already been made public - including the budget announcements about the extension of the YTS to two years. There are, however, important details about the nature of the Government's commitment both to the full implementation of a two-year youth guarantee - at some future date but not yet - and to the measures needed to ensure the high quality in education and training on which its credibility will depend.

Mr Bryan Nicholson, Lord Young's successor as chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, has made it clear that he cannot at this stage guarantee that a full two-year scheme can be erected within the

financial limits laid down by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

As usual, the Commission is being given an impossible schedule. This time, Mr Nicholson says "we are not prepared to sacrifice quality for speed". The £125 million for next year and £300 million for 1987 which is budgeted for the cost of extending YTS, may prove to be quite inadequate to perform the task: everything will depend on the employers' response. The White Paper's fine print shows that these doubts have been accommodated within a form of words which is careful not to promise too much.



But having raised expectations, it would be a mistake to suppose that weasel words will avert disappointment.

If the Government wants to make the YTS a permanent, integrated, component in a balanced system of education and training for all young people up to the age of 18 - as it says it does - the scheme has to shed the characteristics of temporary, unemployment-based phenomenon. Hence the importance of the review of FE qualifications which is to be undertaken by working group - set up by the MSC, note - which will seek, yet again, to rationalize the examinations and, presumably, look at the criticisms voiced this week by Mr Jack Mansell of the FEU (page 11).

The determination that, by 18, every entrant into employment - from full-time education, or from the YTS - should have a recognized qualification is reaffirmed in the White Paper. Assessment in some form or other is going to be of cardinal importance, both as a form of quality control, and as a method of controlling the content of the education and training on offer. This is where some of the biggest battles of the next 12 months are going to be fought out.

And no one should suppose the implications of this will be confined to FE and the YTS: the harmonization of what happens before and after 16 will be a prime objective. Can this be achieved without the recreation of "technical" and "modern" streams from 14 onwards? The future of the comprehensive school will depend on how the question is answered.

COMMENT

Plan or perish

The Jarrett Report on efficiency in universities (page 3) is a blueprint designed to prevent a recurrence of the chaos created by the University Grants Committee's 1981 cuts. It deserves to be read by those at whom it is primarily directed in the clear and certain understanding that what it proposes is for their own good, however unpalatable some of the recommendations might be.

As cogently presented by Sir Alex Jarrett, the central thrust of the report which the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals commissioned, rests on the premise that the universities were so unprepared for retrenchment in 1981, and so structurally ill-equipped to make swift decisions, that they were unable to be as selective as they should have been and will have to be in future. And faced with harsh unexpected cuts, "tenure lay like a log across the railway line" and, of course, still does.

The assumption is that they are going to have to fight for their share of public money whatever government is in power, and that if standards of teaching and research are to be upheld, it will be very much in the interests of the individual institution to set out its objectives and priorities some years ahead. Then it can make and adapt plans in relation to the rest of the system, and set up a clear management structure to implement them more surely than the present complex, historic and impenetrable committee structure.

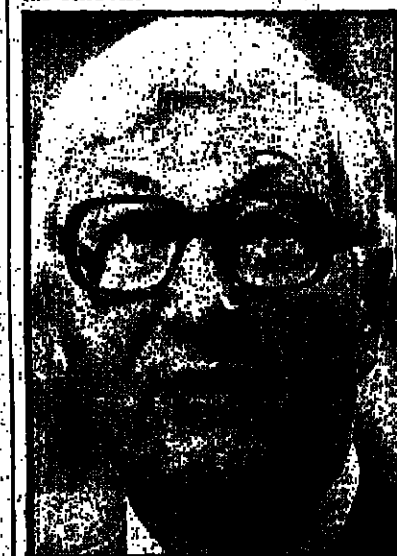
It is right to be sceptical about the sort of business efficiency-speak that calls for chief executive-style vice-chancellors, performance indicators, and regular staff appraisal, when no-one has much assurance that the Government will pay attention to its share of the Jarrett exhortations against policy-making on the hoof.

Some would even argue that the calculated layers of academic non-management have been carefully created over the years by some of the best brains in the country expressly to protect academic freedom by prevent-

ing any decisions being taken. Why not just sit tight and wait to see whether the Government at least takes on board the recommendation to reappraise the UGC, which was also constructed in other days for different purposes?

Jarrett supplies firm answers to such doubts. The greater the uncertainty outside, the more essential it is for a university's own survival to be clear enough where it wants to go, so that it can argue its case effectively with UGC or government, and sufficiently in control to carry out exactly what it wants to do.

A university does not owe it only to itself to think about long-term direction and balance. Decisions made now will affect 14- and 15-year-olds currently making their subject choice in the schools.



Sir Alex Jarrett

Whisper who dares

When reports, however, circumstantial, suggest that the Secretary of State is on the point of going to his Cabinet colleagues with his own proposals for

wary and reserve judgement till something more definitive is revealed.

It would, however, be good news if some sort of an initiative is being discussed in Elizabeth House, even if the circumstances are obscure and the links between Sir Keith's newly discovered pot of gold (if it exists) and the Burnham Committee are clothed in a no doubt intentional mystery at this stage.

At the same time there have been hints that the NUT is treating the paper which ACAS has drawn up on the basis of separate discussions with the teachers and the employers with conspicuous care, anxious not to be accused once again of the precipitate rejection of any possible avenue of forward movement. And 10 days from now the Secretary of State's representatives are due to meet the teachers to follow up the January meeting at which Sir Keith Joseph and the NUT decided to try to establish some common ground on appraisal.

Several quite separate strands seem to have become intertwined. First, there is the hoary old question of the shortage of teachers in certain subjects and the anecdotal evidence which suggests that it is becoming noticeably harder to attract and retain teachers in these vital fields. It may well be that Sir Keith believes that, if the labour market for these people has become more active (and that teaching is falling to recruit its share at present prices), there should be an orthodox market response in the form of higher salaries for these specialists. There would then remain the question of how to distribute a "shortage subject" bonus in the most economical way, while somehow managing to persuade the teachers, with their highly developed sense of collegial equity, that this was fair and reasonable. The Cockcroft report suggested a number of ways in which the financial rewards for teaching could be marginally improved, for instance, by increasing the discretionary powers of I.A.A.s to create additional scale posts - but the Government's failure to take these up reflects the difficulties which any plan would entail.

Of course, the present Government may not care what other teachers think. It may believe it can just market, in and tell them and their employers to take it or leave it. But the education authorities' and employers' not dare

about the views of sensible middle-of-the-road teachers, many of whom will have strong anxieties about the effect of new differentials on staffroom morale, and no doubt this has been pointed out forcibly to the Secretary of State.

As to an appraisal-based scheme of merit payments, with all the controversial elements any such scheme would incorporate, this could hardly be imposed at short notice against the wishes of the teachers and without a deal in Burnham. But the latest garbled reports may reflect Sir Keith's urgent desire to enable the ESG grants for action research on appraisal to go ahead.

Time to be radical

Ministers spent the day before April 1 at Chequers going over plans for the reform of local government finance. The key proposal is the new window tax. Mrs Thatcher sees the revival of this form of taxation as a dramatic restatement of pre-Victorian fiscal values which will drag local government kicking and screaming into the 18th century. It will also encourage energy saving and the growing of mushrooms in living rooms.

The police believe that if people board up their windows to escape the tax this would help in the fight against house-breaking and the tax has found an unexpected ally in the Chancellor of the Exchequer who thinks that factories without windows would be the ideal environment for sweated labour. Other ministers favour a poll tax, believing that general and local elections have been exempt from VAT for too long.

no comment

"Subjects for the fourth and fifth years: a. English; b. maths; c. social studies; d. physical education. In the fifth year this can be community work or possibly typing."

Extract from notes for guidance about option choices at a north London girls' comprehensive school.

Second opinion

Overkill no answer to racism

The emergence at long last of the Swann Report has exposed more uncomfortably than ever the raw nerve at the centre of the race relations industry. There have always been differences of opinion over the education of black children. Now an unseemly and bitter quarrel threatens to undo the progress that has already been made.

A fundamental issue of ends and means is at stake. The multicultural creed of cultural diversity (discussed last week in *The TES* by Professor Parekh) is widely accepted. But increasingly, it gives ground to a new and altogether more alarming doctrine, known in the trade as anti-racism.

Anti-racism proclaims itself to be a purer, more fundamental and more effective means of eradicating racial disadvantage. But its methods are so uncompromising and its polarization of the issues so brutal that it is likely to do more harm than good.

The new creed is a grand, universal theory with very little bearing on the hard facts of life in the classroom. It is structuralist and essentially Marxist, calling for a revolution in both institutional patterns and personal attitudes to tear out racism by the roots.

It starts from the sweeping assumption that British schools, and by implication most teachers, are somehow inherently racist. Schools, after all, are part of a white-dominated education system in a white-dominated society. However well-intentioned a teacher, he cannot escape his social conditioning.

In many parts of the country teachers are being urged to attend re-education courses ("racism awareness classes") to purge them of their covertly racist attitudes. More and more I.A.A.s have appointed advisers, whose main qualification in most cases is political activism, to draw up policy documents and statements of intent, which will be duly endorsed and filed away.

All this activity may be worthy, but is it achieving the right results? Most teachers, of course, will find the change that they are somehow guilty of racism both damaging and offensive. One London head called it "deeply insulting to the entire teaching profession".

If this is how anti-racists expect to win friends in the staffroom, they are mistaken. The vast majority of teachers - fair-weather, professional people who would never dream of discriminating on racial grounds - are being alienated from what they see as an essentially political cause.

One observer commented: "Anti-racism is not education at all. It is propaganda." Another has cynically proposed a new universal law: "The incidence of alleged racism in any society will vary in direct proportion to the number of people handsomely paid to find it."

The ground of the argument has shifted, with potentially disastrous results for race relations. Instead of pulling together towards a common aim - a society free from racism - the race relations industry is tearing itself apart in a bitter and damaging dispute over means. Attitudes are becoming polarized, and black pupils risk being set even further apart from their white classmates.

But the most alarming aspect of this new creed is that it brooks no criticism. By definition, those who are not for anti-racism are against it - and therefore racist. Teachers will have little difficulty in seeing through this kind of intellectual dishonesty.

But it is still being purveyed. One former teacher now working on anti-racism for the ILA refused to be interviewed about her views for a balanced article, on the grounds that "giving equal space to 'the opposition' was unacceptable: it would not enhance 'the cause'." If this is the level of the argument, anti-racism is not only insulting, but dangerous.



Before a fall... Martin Zolkiewicz, aged 5, from Carbis Bay, Cornwall, takes a tumble during the Cornwall Schools Ski Association's Artificial Ski Slope Championships at Barton, Torquay, last Saturday. About 120 pupils from 14 schools took part.

Universities told to act urgently on efficiency

by Biddy Passmore

Universities must streamline their management and draw up their own strategic plans quickly if they are not to have plans thrust upon them, the Jarrett committee on university efficiency said this week.

The committee's report, which was prepared for university vice-chancellors last month and funded by the Government, predicts that money will be scarce for the foreseeable future. It says universities should cut down their bureaucratic decision-making by ending committees and make themselves more efficient so that they are better placed to make hard choices.

Launching the report on Monday, Sir Alex Jarrett, chairman of Reed International and chancellor of Birmingham University, said of the 1981 cuts: "Universities were not given the opportunity to think ahead, nor did they have the planning structure to enable them afterwards to behave as selectively as we think they should have done". They had therefore cut pro rata.

Even if universities knew where they wanted to go, he added, very few of them had the clear command structure to enable them to get there. The inquiry, based on case studies of six universities - Edinburgh, Loughborough, Nottingham, Sheffield and University College London - recom-

mends that each university draw up its objectives and a rolling plan of how to reach them.

The vice-chancellor should be the university's chief executive and should chair a planning and resources committee "of strictly limited size", which would bring together financial and academic decisions. This committee would allocate resources to appropriate budgeting centres.

Academic staff should be regularly appraised, it says, but Sir Alex emphasized on Monday that this should have nothing to do with pay.

Each university should report to the University Grants Committee within a year on the action it has taken and the UGC should take its progress into account when allocating grants.

In a section which implies strong criticism of the UGC, which universities are said to regard as "a tool of the Department of Education", the report proposes that the committee should make known its own views about the future of higher education - especially in the absence of a Government lead - and keep in closer touch with individual universities.

It also calls for longer funding horizons and remarks: "Government should avoid thrusting crises on universities by sudden short-term changes of course".

Deputies short of time - SHA

Deputy headteachers should be released from teaching in secondary schools for at least 50 per cent of the teaching week, says a discussion paper published by the 4,500-strong Secondary Heads Association.

In the paper, "The managerial and policy status of deputy heads in secondary schools", the SHA says: "It is hard to see how deputies can

discharge their management responsibility when they are in the classroom for 50 per cent of the teaching week, which is surprisingly common."

It says some teaching time has its advantages, but adds: "In some cases, particularly in larger schools, it is impractical for deputies to teach at all during the day."

Parents sit in class to stop 'victimization'

relations lobby, and spoke of a practice among some Asian parents of taking their children out of school in term time for visits to Pakistan.

The chairman of the committee, Miss Jenny Woodward, said: "We understand from children who attend the alternative school that some members of staff threatened them for taking part."

Despite supervisory measures introduced last October by the education authority to ensure that children between Mr Honeyford and the school community, the parents' action group

NEWS

APU finds huge surge in primary science teaching

by Sarah Bayliss

Statistics from the Assessment of Performance Unit indicate a dramatic increase in science teaching in primary schools over the past three years.

Giving evidence to the Commons Select Committee on education, Mr Arthur Clegg, an HMI staff inspector and professional head of the APU, said a new survey of 15,000 11-year-olds had shown that primary schools had doubled their science teaching and that 97 per cent were now including the subject.

Ninety-one per cent had science as a planned component which took about 5 per cent of curriculum time. Three years ago only 50 per cent of 11-year-olds were getting some science teaching before transferring to secondary school.

Mr Clegg, who has a science background himself with a long career in science teaching and inspection, said later that the schools had taken heed of public and political pressure including the DES and HMI consultative documents on science published three years ago.

In the light of the most recent DES policy statement on science - which said every primary teacher must offer some science - and of the White Paper *Better Schools*, Mr Clegg hoped

schools would look closely at the 5 per cent of time which they appeared to allocate, and at the kind of science they were tackling.

Asked about the dissemination of the APU's findings and their impact on in-service training, Mr Nicholas Summers, DES under-secretary with responsibility for the APU, said its influence was greater on teachers than ever before, especially since Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, had initiated a system of APU booklets for classroom teachers.

Mr Clegg said he had spoken to 5,000 heads in recent years and that in the past few weeks the APU had held one-day seminars for 51 tutors responsible for in-service training in mathematics, and all 26 tutors responsible for science. They were particularly keen to know how to test children by means other than written tests. They had been shown a special kit on testing without writing, and videos of children learning maths and science.

Miss Jean Dawson, assistant secretary and administrative head of the APU, said she believed the local authorities' advisory service found APU's national conferences and materials "extraordinarily valuable".

Primary, page 6

Eton goes boating underwater

by Bert Lodge

Three Eton schoolboys have been awarded £1,000 to help them build an underwater exploration craft as part of their A-level design studies. The grant comes from the Challenge to Youth scheme, which has been run for several years by BP Oil to encourage original design and manufacture among school students.

Tim King, Adam Hely-Hutchinson and Charles Lunt, all members of the school's "Challenge to Youth" team, will visit the Royal Naval submarine museum at Gosport and also take instruction in scuba-diving as part of the design and testing preparations. The project will be supervised by Mr Howard Orme, master in charge of craft, design and technology, and be submitted for the boys' A-level examinations in 1986.

Their submission was accepted in the "open challenge" section of the BP scheme which allows the company to back individual projects. Normally the Challenge to Youth is an open knock-out competition run on regional lines with the awards going to outright winners.

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PLATFORM

Is another Houghton the answer?

What I want to do in this article is to consider the question of teachers' pay in general terms: that is, in terms of first principles rather than the tactical requirements of the moment. This may be irrelevant to the present crisis, but at some time or other it will be necessary to take a broader perspective within which a longer term approach can be allowed to emerge.

One way of achieving this may be to appoint a committee of inquiry harking back to Houghton and all that, but it is not the only way. An alternative would be for the employers and teachers to set up a joint committee under an independent chairman to investigate these matters. Another possibility would be for a Select Committee of the House of Commons to study the subject. It is even conceivable that the Secretary of State himself might take the lead and call for a conference to thrash out the issues.

The trouble with the last as well as with other possibilities is that it is difficult in practice to divorce legitimate claims for higher real incomes now from the establishment of a procedure applicable to the future. The two are, anyway, interconnected since it makes good sense to offer a sweetener in the present to encourage a rational response in the future.

Having said that, what kind of general considerations should be taken into account? Let us start with the obviously economic. The Government is pursuing a public sector incomes policy as part of its anti-inflationary strategy, and in order to reduce public expenditure. The policy was introduced *ad hoc* to bolster the failings of the naive monetarism on which the Government was elected in 1979, and it has been preserved in a rough and ready fashion. The reason for this is that the more sophisticated alternatives would involve the explicit acceptance of theoretical and practical economic failure, and a recognition that mainstream economics was back in the saddle.

For those who are unaware of this, I should add that there is no necessary connection between Keynesianism and public expenditure. Equally, monetarism as an economic doctrine does not in itself involve attacks on public sector pay. I make this point for

The search for effective solutions to the teachers' dispute must look behind and beyond the present deadlock. Maurice Peston looks for an answer linking pay with responsibility.

two reasons. If the Government suddenly announced that it realized the error of its ways on monetarism, this would not necessarily cause it to ease off on teachers' pay. Equally, it is hard to believe that any alternative government would be able to abandon a public sector incomes policy without dire consequences for inflation.

The first principle, therefore, is that if there is to be a public sector incomes policy it must have a rational foundation, and adjust itself to circumstances. One of those circumstances is, we are told, the ease with which teachers may be recruited. There are, however, two additional considerations that must be added to that. Ease of recruitment in conditions of widespread unemployment is much less compelling a contention than it would be at full employment or if the Government were pursuing a vigorous employment policy. The second and related point is that it is a mistake to go for short-term real wage cuts if there are long-run disadvantages that follow.

The social costs of an attack on teachers' salaries are obvious. One is that the quality of long-run recruitment will decline. In this connection, it is worth remembering that it is much easier to destroy careers and the esteem in which they are held than to build them up again.

A second is that performance is not independent of remuneration. I am not suggesting that teachers will consciously adjust what they do downwards to correspond to what they are paid. Even if they wanted to, their intrinsic professionalism will get in the way. The process will be rather more insidious, but we will still end up with



Lord Houghton

the quality of education that we are willing to pay for.

On pay itself there is the obvious point that what matters is the lifetime career pattern and not merely what is received in one particular year. The pay structure must achieve at least two objectives. One is to recruit and retain teachers of the desired quality in general. A second is to attract and keep so-called high-flyers who will take more senior positions and offer the leadership throughout the system which is so sorely needed. Since teachers are a fairly heterogeneous group, the two objectives are not always compatible with each other. The conflict has always been there to stay on the lower rungs of the ladder and want pay-increases to be located there, and those who anticipate advancing further.

The age earnings profile is also important in explaining the present crisis. In an education system which is set to contract, there is much less room for promotion. Teachers suffer not merely because their real wages are cut at present, but also because their hopes of moving forward are considerably diminished.

To all that must be added the deterioration in working environment. In part there is the obvious decline in physical conditions, not least to do with the provision of books and equipment being less than necessary. But there is also the broader problem that the job seems to have got harder, especially at the secondary level in the inner cities. And matters are not improved by the ignorant attacks to which the teachers are subject.



Reg Prentice

All of this takes us back to the value of education itself. Ultimately pay and conditions, and the quality of the teaching force being aimed at, depend on the worth of education as seen by those who receive it and those who finance it. Here again we have the usual paradoxes. For the individual everything that goes wrong may be blamed on his teachers, but everything that goes right is credited to him.

At the level of society, it is more usual to emphasize the power of education for good or ill. Much that is wrong with our labour force and, indeed, the economy as a whole, is blamed on the schools. Equally, it is also now suggested by the present Government that change in the schools will have strongly beneficial effects. My own judgement is that this is to exaggerate the importance of education both ways. (It may also be criticized on the grounds that it takes too much for granted an instrumentalist approach, attaching too little value to the educational experience itself.)

The education system can be reformed, and in doing so, can be of help to our economic regeneration. But insofar as we have failed and will continue to fail, the fault lies elsewhere: the schools being largely a reflection of more powerful underlying forces.

All of this, of course, takes us from the narrowly economic to the more broadly educational. If teachers are to have well-paid careers because of the educational benefits that would be forthcoming, those benefits must be examined and assessed. I, for one, am willing to accept that this can and must be done in large part by teachers themselves or by people with teaching

experience. But it is equally clear that some method of independent assessment must be involved. I must add that the assessment I am talking about is of education in a broad sense, and not of concern itself with the school, the local authority and the system as a whole. Moreover, no serious examination can take place without paying due attention to the resources available and needed.

But this, of course, does take us to another well-known problem. It is widely agreed that careers in education (perhaps more, even, than elsewhere) require a high degree of enhancement from time to time. There is an argument about the desirability of expensive in-service training, although there are difficulties about paying for it. But the counterpart of this is the problem of the failed or incompetent teacher. For those of us who have involved ourselves with the schools, it is clear what is the more remarkable: the extraordinary achievements of the great majority of teachers, or the occasional failure. No one, parent, or teachers, is unaware of the latter.

What is more, they are usually sympathetic to his predicament. Since the cost of such falling is borne by the pupils, and they cannot afford it, the person concerned must ultimately be asked to leave.

My own view is that the unwillingness of the teacher unions to confront this problem has done as much to anything to damage the public image of teachers, and to strengthen the hand of those who wish to grind them down. The problem itself is minor, but it is built up out of all proportion, precisely because it is allowed to persist.

The teachers find themselves blamed for everything because they will not accept blame for anything. There is to be a new committee of inquiry one day, therefore, it must be pay to responsibility and the leadership that in the end only teachers themselves can give.

Maurice Peston is professor of economics at Queen Mary College, University of London. He was political adviser to the Education Secretary, Reg Prentice, at the time of the Houghton inquiry.

NEWS

Sir Keith in bid to allay AS fears

by Biddy Passmore

The Advanced Supplementary level exam is not intended to add to busy sixth-formers' workload, Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, reassured secondary teachers this week. The load on students taking three A levels and those taking two A and two AS levels should be about the same, he said.

Sir Keith, in letters to Sir Wilfred Cockcroft, chairman of the Secondary Examinations Council, and Mr Mel Jones, convenor of the GCE boards, took the opportunity to allay some of the fears teachers expressed about the new exam during consultation last year.

As announced in last week's White Paper, *Better Schools*, the first AS level exams will be held in 1989, a year later than originally planned. Sir Keith and Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Welsh Secretary, have offered to contribute a maximum of £300,000 to the exam boards' costs for developing the new syllabuses in up to 15 subjects. They have asked the GCE boards to get together and produce no more than two syllabuses per subject.

In his letters, the Education Secretary said AS level courses would be designed to require about two-and-a-half hours' teaching time per week over two years and about half the private study time of A level courses. While the grades would be related to A level grade standards, expectations would not be "unreasonable" and would take account of candidates' shorter teaching and study time.

Syllabuses should not be devised by cutting A level syllabuses in half, he stated firmly, but should overlap with the best A level ones where feasible and beneficial.

Mr Peter Snape, general secretary of the Secondary Heads' Association, said last week that, while SHA remained opposed to AS levels, it was reassured by the universities' promise not to penalise candidates who did not offer them.

Union leaders face no-confidence vote

by Richard Garner

A motion of no confidence in the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers leadership has been tabled for debate at the union's annual conference next week.

Mr Ted Chandlely, secretary of the union's Coventry branch, which put down the motion for discussion during private session, said his members felt "very disenchanted" with a union leadership which lacked the "personal charisma" of the previous general secretary Mr Terry Casey and treasurer Mr Ron Cocking.

He added: "They may have upset people, but they made people aware that they were there and weren't afraid

to say what the association stood for. I think the association made a good deal of progress in this way."

"Now we are engaged in lightning strikes just like the National Union of Teachers. But in a recent *Panorama*

Conference preview, page 8

programme on the teachers' dispute we were the only teachers' union not to be mentioned. Members find this very disheartening."

Whether the motion is debated hinges on a representatives' ballot to be held at the beginning of the Tor-

quay conference. Mr Chandlely said that several other West Midlands union branches supported Coventry's views of the way the leadership had acted in the past year. Sandwell has also tabled a motion deploring "the lack of effective and cohesive leadership" by the executive during the past 12 months.

Union leaders believe the motion is out of step with the thinking in most branches and do not expect it to be given priority for debate. They argue that the media - notably television - have largely ignored NAS/UTW strike action, despite constant efforts to bring it to their attention.

Instead, the cameras have been focused on NUT activities.

The conference also faces a motion from its Richmond-upon-Thames branch, asserting that peace studies are an integral part of social education and should therefore be of curricular rather than political concern. Another motion to be debated privately, if successful in the ballot, instructs the union's executive to "disperse the NAS/UTW assets as widely as possible, both within the United Kingdom and abroad" in view of the threat to union funds of sequestration under last year's trade union legislation.

Offer pupils fluoridated milk - Ennals

Schoolchildren should be able to drink fluoridated milk to prevent tooth decay, Lord Ennals, the former Labour Secretary of State, argued in the House of Lords last week.

Lord Ennals said this would have two advantages over the Government's plan to fluoridate all water supplies. It would be considerably cheaper, and it would give parents and schoolchildren the right to choose to drink ordinary or fluoridated milk.

He estimated that providing fluoridated milk in schools would cost £2m compared with the £170m it would cost to put fluoride in all water supplies. Lord Ennals, speaking during a second reading of the Water (Fluoridation) Bill, said he accepted that fluoride, taken in the right quantities, was safe and beneficial to dental health.

However, Lord Winstanley, a Liberal peer, and president of the British Fluoridation Society, said the only way to protect the teeth of pre-school children was by fluoridating water. Fluoridated school milk would come too late.



Soaking up knowledge: The Willesden division of the London Fire Brigade explained their job to pupils at Gladstone Park infants school, Brent. An occupational hazard was demonstrated when one crew member was accidentally drenched by an enthusiastic child.

Violent pupils 'must' vow good conduct

Pupils suspended from school should only be readmitted if they and their parents sign a contract of good behaviour, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers says this week.

In a policy statement, *Raising Educational Standards: The Need for Good Order*, the union urges the Government to press ahead with considering alternative methods to corporal punishment for maintaining discipline, including the more widespread use of special units for disruptive pupils.

"It recommends a 'contract of guaranteed conduct' system for suspended pupils - whereby parents can supply for their child to be taken back to school once they are suspended. Parents and child would then be interviewed by a small panel of governors - which could recommend to a full meeting that the pupil be readmitted if they guarantee the good behaviour of the child in writing."

The union says the procedure has worked well in some areas, and adds: "Breaking of this contract by the pupil may result in expulsion."

The document castigates the Government for failing to "face up to the realities" of the European Court ruling that parents should have the right to exempt their children from receiving corporal punishment, saying the judgment "has provided a powerful stimulus" for its abolition.

It cautions against teachers using the sanction of withdrawing a child's privileges, commenting: "There is a danger of interfering with genuine activities."

"It is wrong, for instance, to punish a pupil for persistent talking out of turn by denying him a swimming lesson. Indeed, it may be counter-productive for the child frightened of water will court punishment to avoid the swimming lesson, and the swimming teacher is denied the opportunity to build up that child's confidence in the water."

The document says there is evidence that teachers are often subjected to "defiance, aggression and verbal abuse" in the classroom. But it acknowledges that disciplinary problems arise if the curriculum or subject syllabus is not relevant to the needs of pupils and therefore fails to engage their interest.

School suspends Young Tory after 'racist remarks' to French children

by Paul Flather



Julian Wadey

A 14-year-old member of the Young Conservatives has been suspended from a Sussex school for making allegedly racist remarks to French pupils on an exchange visit.

The parents of Julian Wadey failed in their appeal on Monday to the governors of Varndean High School, Brighton, to have him reinstated. Mr John Wadey said he felt the school was being petty and certainly didn't think he should have been expelled for what he supposed to have said. Mrs Wendy Wadey said that, in context, Julian's remarks had not seemed so bad.

The headmistress of the school, Mrs Margaret Smithers, wrote to Mr and Mrs Wadey explaining that Julian had been suspended for his racist remarks after previous warnings of "insulting

behaviour towards staff and other pupils". But he denies he said "Nazi" to the French children.

A spokesman for East Sussex education department said Julian had been suspended for persistent disruption of lessons by airing his political views, and for insulting behaviour. He has been suspended once before.

Mrs Wadey said her son was a member of the YCA and had helped with leafleting and local fund-raising. But she denied he held particularly strong Conservative views.

Julian received a letter from Counsellor John Leach last summer (thanking him for all the good work he did during the local council elections. "We had a good victory because of you," it said.

Universities to receive PICKUP cash injection

A "short, sharp" injection of funds to boost the universities' involvement in post-experience courses for adults was announced by Mr Peter Brooke, minister for higher education, on Monday.

Ten universities are expected to win sums of about £20,000 to set up new local points for links with local commerce and industry and with nearby polytechnics and colleges.

Vice-chancellors have been invited to submit bids for the money, which is to cover the period from September 1985 to April 1986. The money will be used to fund a range of PICKUP courses in the provision of PICKUP courses.

updating programme, at a conference of university information officers in London. Mr Brooke said universities faced special difficulties in expanding their post-experience updating

market. He suggested the money could be effectively used to create a single, well-publicized point of access for potential clients to all university departments and faculties; to designate PICKUP co-ordinators who could act as a bridge between all local institutions; of further and higher education in the provision of PICKUP courses.

A disciplinary panel which heard her plea for readmission has recommended that she should not be allowed to rejoin until 1986 - and should then face a three-year probation holding office in the recommendation for a year before the union's executive.

NUT refuses to lift ban

One of the two branch officers of the National Union of Teachers expelled from membership for organizing an unofficial half day strike has been told that she cannot rejoin the union.

Mrs Amanda Leon was expelled in 1982 along with Mr Gill Lowenstein, who has since been readmitted to the union. They helped organize the action in protest against the compulsory transfer of Southwark teachers.

A disciplinary panel which heard her plea for readmission has recommended that she should not be allowed to rejoin until 1986 - and should then face a three-year probation holding office in the recommendation for a year before the union's executive.

Teachers of foreign languages look at the way ahead. Conference report by Diane Spencer

Sir Keith promises Welcoming a computer take-over a new policy

The Government needs no persuasion as to the importance of teaching foreign languages, Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, told the conference of the Joint Council of Language Associations in Bradford last weekend.

But employers, parents and pupils needed to be motivated to persuade career teachers and education authorities of its value.

Foreign languages give enormous scope for enriching the lives of people in this country as well as supporting our trade, he said.

Unfortunately not all education authorities were convinced of its importance. The Department of Education and Science's consultative paper published in 1983 painted a depressing picture of the state of foreign language teaching.

The Government had a role to play in encouraging positive attitudes towards foreign languages, and he promised that his department would issue a policy statement later in the year.

exchanges abroad. Teachers should ensure that patterns of options did not work against pupils choosing foreign languages. Better liaison between schools and employers should persuade pupils and parents of the importance of foreign languages in their future careers.

Government policy on language teaching was severely criticized by Professor Brian Page, president of the JCLA.

The notion of the "late start" in language teaching - pupils learning a second language at 12 and 14 - would be catastrophic he told Sir Keith. The policy was mentioned in the S-16 document on the curriculum recently published by the DES.

He was disappointed that the White Paper, *Better Schools*, published last week, failed to support the idea that a foreign language was suitable for pupils of low ability.

"It is disheartening for us. Language learning is a practical useful skill for everybody. Pupils can with profit, enjoyment and success study at least one foreign language, and sometimes more." He had doubts as to whether the DES was for or against teachers of foreign languages. He himself thought that they were an indispensable part of every child's education.

Computers will take over the "slog work" of language teaching by the end of the century, the JCLA conference was told. Professor Tony Stoner of Bradford University said: language teachers should in the future act as ambassadors and travel agents.

"Language professionals should become actively involved in developing human contact to create a global village for which we all so desperately yearn." Verb decisions and vocabulary teaching will be taken over by computer programs comprising the wisdom of the best teachers, he predicted.

He called for EEC financial backing to take parties of children to Europe. "This would help to develop the kind of cultural feel that would make us stop thinking in terms of our country or another but to think as Europeans. Language teachers have a profound role to play in this."

In his keynote address, Professor Stoner said education should now change from the three Rs to the three Cs: children, computers, communication.

The information society of the future would need a workforce that is adaptable, entrepreneurial and interdisciplinary.

"Education must expand its objectives from teaching kids how to make a living to teaching kids how to live." It was the height of delusion to imagine that 10 years of education and training would make a child into a few years' work experience programme.



Best to learn while young

ers' talking out of our ears and they will be about as useful as scribes - all you will have to do by then is to talk to your computer."

So education must be from the cradle to the grave. And it must be education, not training. Training produced technicians; education, professionals.

"A good technician will give you the customer, exactly what you've specified. A professional will give you what you need; there is a big difference." The present policy of telling children they must become scientists and engineers was a disaster. "Sure, we need them, but the majority of them are going to be out of work by the time they are 30."

PRIMARY

Sarah Bayliss reports on approval of PPA emergency measure to stem grave financial crisis

Playgroup association averts bankruptcy

The grave financial crisis which threatened the future of the Pre-school Playgroups Association was averted last weekend when more than 1,200 delegates approved an emergency measure at its annual general meeting in Lancaster.

The association - an educational charity which represents 14,000 playgroups in England and Wales and celebrates its 25th anniversary next year - has been undermined by a deficit of £81,000 and the spectre of financial ruin.

The meeting heard how Mr Ray Pallot, the association's previous finance officer, was dismissed last June. The police were called in, papers sent to the DPP, and in mid-February he was charged with theft, false accounting and corruption.

Mr Pallot is also charged with conspiracy, and has been committed for trial at Southwark Crown Court.

Mrs Sue Griffin, the chairman of the PPA, told the meeting: "Decisions were made and actions were taken by the national executive, by officers and by our predecessors, in all good faith." She announced that the executive had decided to appoint Coopers and Lybrand as auditors.

She said the Department of Health and Social Security, which last year gave the PPA a £361,000 grant, had been kept fully informed of events and had offered valuable support. An official had been seconded to the PPA for six months and a new financial management system drawn up.

In the past few weeks, the department had boosted the PPA's confidence and morale by awarding a £30,000 supplementary grant for 1984-85, significantly reducing the deficit. It had demonstrated "the confidence which the DHSS has in us and the value placed on the work of the

playgroup movement". An application for grant aid in 1985-86 had been made to the DHSS, the Welsh Office and the Department of Education. The latter had proposed £60,000 - a 4 per cent increase on last year's DES grant - and the PPA was waiting to hear from the other departments.

Delegates backed the national executive's emergency proposal to cover the remaining deficit and to build up reserves - which are non-existent at present - by switching all membership subscriptions from regional to national level for one year.

This would severely curtail training programmes - one of the PPA's main functions - and other regional support, but would leave the staffing structure and national headquarters intact and protect individual playgroups.

Mrs Griffin said: "We were especially anxious not to pile an additional burden on member groups, many of whom we know are struggling to work with young children and their families on slender funds."

Urging the meeting to support the emergency measure, Mrs Griffin said: "Thousands of us have every cause to be grateful for all that playgroups and mother-and-toddler groups have done for our children and for us as parents. Let us make it possible for children and parents to go on benefiting."

Welcoming the measure's overwhelming support, Mrs Griffin said: "In my mind, there's no doubt that we shall come out of this crisis renewed in strength and vigour, more confident that what the PPA stands for is sound and vigorous."

In practice, the PPA is still not financially secure since members' subscriptions will not be available until October - though they are being collected by direct debit.



Sue Griffin

grant was due to be paid from April 1 but last year it was not announced nor received until late June.

According to Mrs Minna Ireland, the PPA treasurer, the membership is doing everything it can in the way of collections and donations. But the association will be heavily dependent for the next few weeks on a £100,000 National Westminster Bank overdraft, offered at an interest rate 8 per cent below what would be expected.

At the PPA's annual conference titled "Families Can Choose", concern was expressed about the pressure exercised by teachers and heads on parents to send their children to school early - "at four years, one day".

Dr Joan Tough, from the school of education at Leeds University and director of a project on communication skills, said she knew of cases where parents had been told they would lose their child's place at school unless they sent them before they were five.

But this was "nonsense" and a pre-school campaign in Leeds was appealing to parents their rights.

rents, Dr Tough said: "I can see why teachers are doing this - their classrooms are empty and they want to see them full. But they have tremendous responsibilities to see that the provision is suitable (for four-year-olds)."

The Leeds campaign was urging teachers to examine the curriculum they were offering to children under five. Dr Tough wanted to see a more flexible attitude - so that children started when they were ready, perhaps for half-a-day at a time.

Dr Tough was applauded for saying that playgroups often suffered when their four-year-olds left early to start school. The younger children no longer had role models.

She said: "We are not only putting four-year-olds in conditions that don't suit them, but we are also destroying the environments which the three-year-olds are in."

Dr Aidan Macfarlane, a consultant paediatrician at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, said in his presidential address that parents were the best experts on their children's health and should be given responsibility for their health clinic notes.

Dr Macfarlane, who is in charge of all child health services in the Oxford district, advocated a system of health "passports" which would contain parents' notes and observations as well as health and development checklists to be completed.

Seventy-eight per cent of parents in the town of Abingdon had been questioned about the idea and favoured it. As a result, 500 families had been issued with the notes normally held by their clinics. The scheme had proved so popular that a further 1,500 families had joined it.

He hoped the system would be maintained by the school health services and envisaged that "passports"

could span a person's life from conception to the grave.

Dr Macfarlane, co-author of a book on cot deaths, said he hoped that recognizing parental expertise in this way might lead to earlier diagnosis of health problems and would prompt professionals to listen to them more.

"If parents were given cues as to what to look for, I believe they would be just as good as, or even better than, the professionals at picking up problems in their children."

Research would be conducted to compare the diagnosis of children's problems in the Abingdon area with families in North Oxfordshire where a conventional system still prevailed.

Dr Macfarlane also advocated a system of child health training across several professions, including teachers, playleaders and health visitors. "Knowledge about child health is common to us all. It should be taught commonly."

In the latest edition of *Current*, the PPA members' magazine, he is quoted as saying that "most child health professionals, early in their career, know a great deal less about normal child development than do experienced parents."

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How bright eyes outshine the apple

by Mike Durham

Children who look their teachers in the eye and pay them compliments are likely to do better in class, according to the head of a special school who has taught social skills to scores of maladjusted primary-age pupils.

Dr Roger Burland, principal of Cheltenham Mill School near Barnstaple, in Devon, has found that a steady gaze and a well-chosen word are more effective at winning teacher over than the more traditional apple.

He told the British Psychological Society annual conference in Swansea on Sunday that children in primary schools often lacked the basic social skills which better-adjusted children and some adults took for granted.

They include: choosing the right moment to approach a teacher for help; recognizing when he or she is angry, making an excuse that sounds plausible, and smiling at the start of a conversation.



Eye contact was one of the most important skills Dr Burland found lacking. "A lot of kids, like many adults, don't know how to use their eyes effectively," he said. "Yet it is one of the most important means of communication."

Dr Burland uses videos, role-playing games and discussion groups to teach his 42 pupils, aged 7 to 13, how to use their eyes in different situations.

As an example, when children are making an apology, they should assume a submissive attitude and avoid looking at the teacher until they have finished speaking. Then they should look the teacher straight in the eye.

In normal conversation, children can learn the right degree of eye contact to engage teacher's interest. But too much eye contact can be interpreted as insolence.

Children can get teachers on to their side - and make life a lot easier for themselves - by the judicious use of a few compliments, according to Dr Burland.

"Everybody likes being complimented. We try to teach the children that it's OK for them to tell teacher it was an interesting lesson if that's what they really thought," Dr Burland said.

So long as the children pick the right moment to deliver the compliment and say it with enough conviction, they stand a good chance of getting into the teacher's good books. But at the same time a child with the right social skills can avoid being called a creep or teacher's pet.

Dr Burland explained that teachers were more likely to overlook small misdemeanours if they were done by the right person. "If you're the positive type, you can break some of the rules and still be liked by teachers," he said.

Holiday playscheme cash cut

Harriet Harman, Labour MP for Peckham, has condemned cuts in short-term Urban Aid which will effectively halve the sums available for holiday playschemes.

Mrs Harman, a shadow spokeswoman on social services, said she believed the reduction of £400,000 would have an immediate effect on Easter and summer playschemes which usually later for the 5-11s. Funding for 1985/86 is £399,149 compared with £854,886 in 1984/85.

Thirty-five towns and cities are said to have had their holiday play money cut altogether and 70 others have received less than last year. Only nine authorities have been given more money.

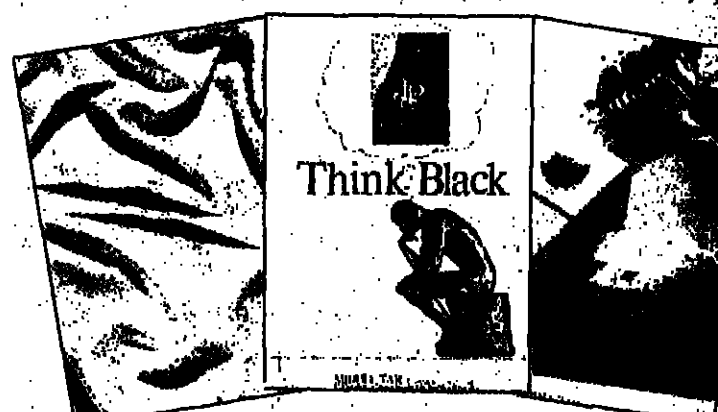
"There's a real concern that children and young people will be placed at serious risk because of the cuts," said Mrs Harman, who chaired a meeting of voluntary organizations and local authorities in the House of Commons last week. "More unsupervised, unemployed young people will be wandering the streets in cities and towns."

AMMA seeks new members

A teachers' union which has traditionally attracted members from the secondary sector is to mount a recruiting drive in primary schools this year.

The annual report of the Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association - which has its annual conference in Folkestone next week - makes it clear that the primary sector will be its "target area" in 1985.

The report reveals that the union recruited 1,677 new members last year and added 170 more this month. The committee has paid particular attention to the recruitment of teachers at those schools (particularly in the primary sector) where there were only no association members.



The cigarette ads that have six appeal

Cigarette advertisements have a powerful impact on children as young as six, and many perceive their message as adults do, a health educators' meeting was told in Edinburgh last week.

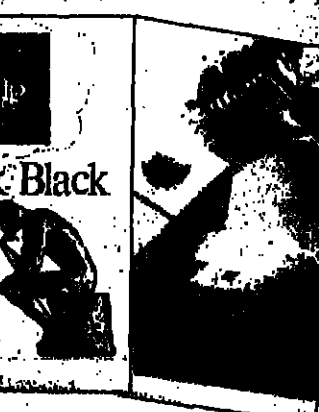
Researchers from Strathclyde University's departments of marketing and psychology reported the findings of their study on children's perceptions of cigarette promotion to the conference on health education and the media at Heriot-Watt University.

They discovered that six-year-olds were aware of cigarette advertising, although they were too young to be able to decide what an advertisement was. Many primary and most secondary school children were able to recognize the distinctive imagery of leading cigarette brands.

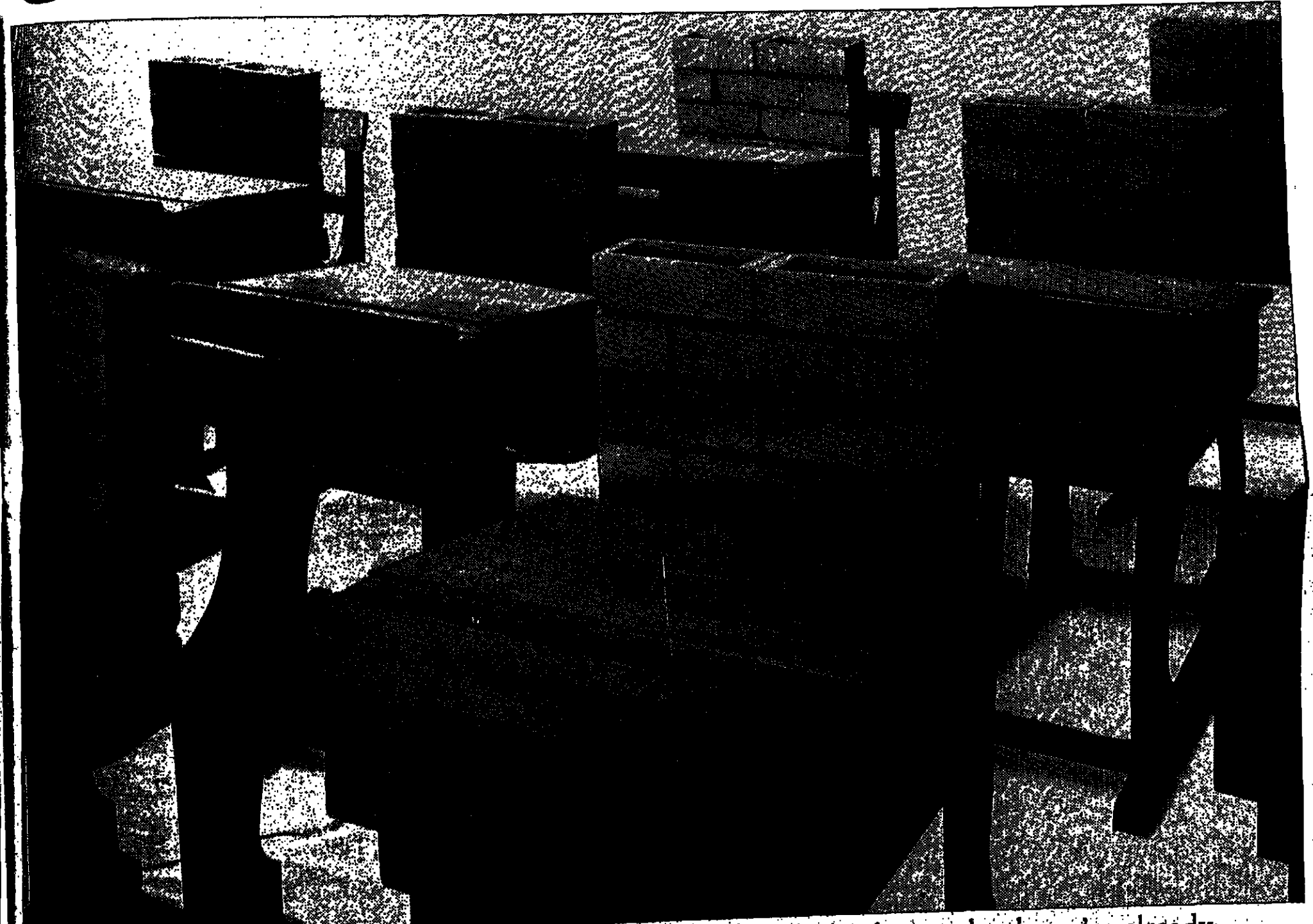
Children started to develop an adult-like perception between 10 and 14, and were able to identify which social groups different advertisements were aimed at.

Most in the 14-16 group saw attractive qualities in some British cigarette advertisements and distinguished between the images portrayed in a similar way to adults.

A third of six-year-olds and 50 per cent of 14-year-olds could recognize the cigarette brand from the advertisement. But only 10 per cent of the 14-year-olds could recognize the brand from the advertisement. Although the promotion does not



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It has to be better than talking to a brick wall.



BARCLAYS

NEWS

Richard Garner provides a preview of the Easter teachers' conferences and meets two of the presidents-elect

NUT poised to call for extension of strikes

Leaders of the National Union of Teachers are to meet in emergency session today to reassess their industrial action in support of this year's pay claim. The majority of executive members is now said to believe the strike campaign will have to be stepped up after Easter.

Their view - to be put to the union's annual conference in Scarborough on Saturday - is in marked contrast to the thinking of the other TUC-affiliated teachers' union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which believes that the strike action should not be intensified for the time being.

The NUT executive is likely to consider indefinite strikes in selected areas instead of the three-day strikes which have been staged until now. In addition, there will be calls of a levy of the membership to sustain those involved in prolonged strikes.

If the indefinite strike move fails, the executive is likely to suggest that more members should be involved in the rolling strike programme and that the action should last more than three days.

Whatever the executive decides (a one-day national strike is also being considered), there are bound to be calls from the floor for tougher action

-including the overturning of last year's decisions to exempt examination classes from strike action.

Leaders of the NAS/UWT, however, want to continue taking selective strike action, including the withdrawal of key teachers with heavy timetable commitments.

They would also like to see a settlement of the dispute by mid-term, although Mr Fred Smithies, the NAS/UWT general secretary, said: "One of the reasons I can't see us going for escalated action is that we are pacing ourselves - just in case we are involved in a long distance race."

However, the NAS/UWT leadership is also

likely to face demands for action that will disrupt examinations at its Easter conference in Torquay.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, which also has its annual conference in Folkestone next week, is likely to hear calls for a ban on covering for absent colleagues, and attending staff and parents' evenings.

Last week, the AMMA executive decided against such a move despite a slim majority in favour of it in a national ballot. It has agreed to urge its members to donate money to a national advertising campaign to put the teachers' case

come off the executive, I have been promised they will find me a job at my present scale."

He was undecided whether to join the National Union of Teachers or the NAS/UWT when he entered the profession. He said: "I asked myself four questions. Which union was TUC-affiliated? In which union was a colleague I had a tremendous degree of respect for? Which was the largest union in the school? Which union was the headteacher in?"

The answer to the fourth question was the NUT - so I decided to join the NAS/UWT," he added. And with his mining background, he could only contemplate joining a TUC-affiliated union.

His father's love of ballroom dancing - he got a job after leaving the pit as a professional - meant that the young Joe was brought up in a musical atmosphere. So despite taking A level sciences, he opted for music teaching when it came to deciding on a career.

The flute was his main instrument - but he spent much of the early 1960s playing bass guitar in a rock band. "Most of the instruments I've learned, I've learned by just standing up and playing in Labour, Conservative and British Legion Clubs."

He reckons his experience of playing to club audiences helped him develop the necessary skills for the path he is now on.

"You learn about playing by making bum notes and making a fool of yourself. But audiences are basically thick and, providing you don't make it obvious you don't know, what you're doing, you can get away with it."

He sees one of his missions in the NAS/UWT as persuading teachers that their best interests lie in thinking of themselves as trade unionists - and he wants to see schools opening themselves up more to adults and offering "realistic progressive education."

"Progressive" is a degraded word which has an aura of woolly-thinking about it," he said. "We should be bringing adults into the schools alongside the kids - together with the rest of the community - and adopting a more collegiate approach to the running of schools."

"That requires teachers to stop thinking of themselves as martyred professionals and think more headedly as creative skilled workers."

He sees the main task for his 12 months of office as to get a deal from the structure talks. "I'll be disappointed if we don't," he said. "It's not because any one person has any influence on events, but because it's crucially important for the education system. The longer it goes on, though, the more difficult it is to get it together."

"If they gave us Houghton tomorrow, it wouldn't satisfy me because all it would do is prop up an antiquated, divisive and terribly structurally hierarchical system. It wouldn't solve the problem of 70 per cent of teachers being on scales one and two."

"It is not just money, because the money difference is not worth that much. It is all about choice and in the hierarchical system we have now, scale one teachers have no choice. That's why it needs changing."

He believes in cooperation with the NUT and says his personal relationship with its leader-elect, Gordon Green, is good.

Mr Boone recalled: "I first met him at a Schools Council meeting when we were both lighting our pipes under the 'no smoking sign' and I warned him immediately."

Mr Boone's wife, Anne, serves on the NAS/UWT executive for the Greater Manchester area. She topped the poll in an election for the union's

Young Green comes of age

Gordon Green takes over the helm of Britain's biggest teaching union this weekend - ready to face one of the most difficult years that any president of the National Union of Teachers has ever had.

Aged 52 but still known as "young Green" in the Birmingham area because he succeeded another Green, Larry, as the union's executive member - he is one of the NUT's new breed of leaders.

A new style of leadership has emerged within the NUT during the year in which he has been vice-president. For the first time, all four elected officers of the union - the president, ex-president, treasurer and vice-president - come from the "broad Left" section of the union. But as one observer put it: "That's a pretty broad Left - broad is very broad in the NUT."

Nevertheless, there has been a shift in direction, partly because the union's deputy general secretary, Mr Doug McAvooy, had to take a more central role in the absence of Mr Fred Jarvis, the general secretary, who was being treated for a serious leg injury for most of last year.

Politically, there is little difference between Mr Jarvis and Mr McAvooy, but the latter has adopted a blunter, more aggressive approach to the Burnham pay negotiations.

There is no doubt, though, that the style of leadership introduced by the new leaders is supported by the union's executive - many of whom only took office for the first time last year - and by many grassroots members.

Gordon Green hopes his presidential address to the conference on Saturday will provide a rallying call to these troops - and trusts his year of office will see continued support for the kind of leadership which pays attention to conference resolutions.

The president-elect is a Labour Party member and his father was the Labour chairman of a parish council. His father-in-law, Sidney Harris, was the predecessor to Bill Sims at what is now known as the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

When he left National Service in 1951 at the height of the Cold War he went up to university to read Russian in answer to a Civil Service call for more interpreters.

There were only eight people in the entire British service who could speak Russian at that time, apparently," he said.

He became an NUT school representative within a year of taking up teaching in 1956 - he has been headmaster of Primrose Hill secondary school, King's Norton, for 18 years - and has been to the union's annual conference for more than 20 years in succession.

"Nowadays there's a much greater political awareness from the floor than there used to be," he said. "The union is now involved in issues which



Gordon Green



Joe Boone

The king of rock and coal

Joe Boone, the incoming president of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, has the sort of street credibility that most union leaders only aspire to.

Born in Bolton 39 years ago, he is the son and grandson of miners. His father went down the pit at 11, only to be made redundant in the 1920s after spending all the First World War at the coalface.

A blunt-speaking northerner, Mr Boone dismisses the non-TUC affili-

ated teachers' unions as "Mickey Mouse" organizations - but employs the same candour to describe his own teaching post as head in a department of one. His succession to the NAS/UWT throne marks a departure from the traditional style of teaching union president.

For a start, he is far younger than most of his predecessors - indeed, it is even reckoned by some that he is the youngest person to hold the NAS/UWT job.

And he is still on scale two in a world which has seen most union presidents come from the ranks of headteachers and their deputies.

He has taught in his native town since becoming a teacher in 1971 - originally at the English Martyr secondary modern, which then merged with another to become the present St Augustine's comprehensive.

Mr Boone has been heavily involved in union work since 1978 when he was first elected to the executive, but he still nominally retains his job as head of music at his school. He added: "If and when democracy takes its course and I

Judge backs PAT's Burnham case

A High Court judge has told National Union of Teachers leaders they are "frustrating the intention of Parliament" by refusing the rival Professional Association of Teachers access to pay negotiation documents and working groups.

Mr Justice Macpherson ruled that the PAT, whose members pledge never to go on strike, should be allowed to attend Burnham Committee working groups if they wished.

He believed the action of the NUT-dominated teachers' panel in denying "audience and documents" to the PAT, specifically at residential meetings in Manchester and Plymouth to discuss pay structure, "does not seem to reflect credit upon the NUT - or any real willingness to cooperate with PAT."

The court had heard evidence for the Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, from Mr Ian Langtry, head of the DES teachers' branch, that he believed the NUT moves "seriously inhibited" PAT's capacity to play a full part in Burnham committee deliberations.

Sir John Warr, the committee's

independent chairman, had also indicated that he would expect bodies represented on the main committees to be on working groups if they wished to be. The PAT was given a seat on the Burnham committee, which was established by Act of Parliament, from Sir Keith's predecessor, Mr Mark Gaskell.

Mr Doug McAvooy, deputy general secretary of the NUT, had told the court that it was "simply a matter of principle" that the teachers' panel should be allowed to decide representation on sub-committees.

The judge awarded the PAT costs from the teachers' panel - which has agreed to divide them according to the number of representatives each union has on the committee. Total costs are expected to exceed £50,000, but the management panel, which had insisted on its right to control the hearing, would be liable to bear its own costs.

Mr McAvooy said the NUT would be pleased by the decision which will put

be reported to the teachers' panel. It will decide whether to appeal - although an undertaking was given in court that the teachers would abide by the spirit of the judge's comments.

Mr Peter Dawson, the general secretary of PAT, said after the judgment: "The most important thing is that it means the NUT must listen to other people. They can't run the Burnham teachers' panel like a dead branch of the German Democratic Republic."

"The judge talked of their unreasonable - and some of that unreasonableness has been shown in the way that they have conducted pay negotiations, having secret breakfast meetings and running off to ACAS on their own."

Mr Bryan Round, PAT's honorary treasurer, said the association had attended about 35 meetings of working groups uninvited during the past few years, adding: "We've had to run our own industrial espionage department to find out what is happening, and this is not what is happening."

"Effective briefing is vital if people are to work as a team, and it's an essential part of my job to do it properly."

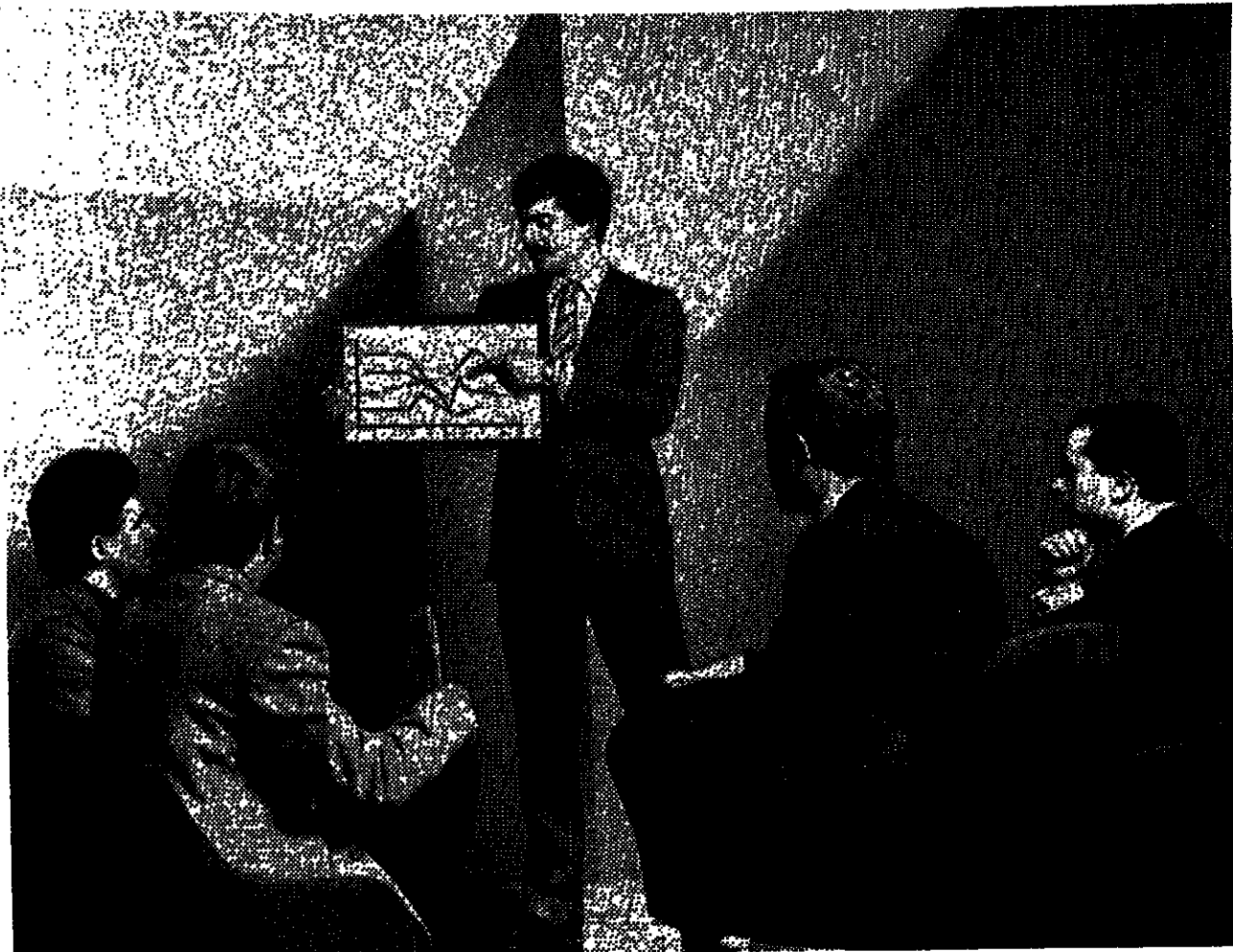
David Ramshaw's ability to communicate well with his sales team could have a lot to do with the success he's met in his career.

He's Area Sales Manager for a firm of textile manufacturers, responsible for a team dealing with a sizeable part of the North-East.

Yet despite his job responsibilities, at the weekend David takes on another, equally demanding role - as a Territorial Army Officer.

"Okay - it's very time consuming. But I get twice as much out of the TA as I put in. And I keep fitter and more mentally alert."

David earned his commission whilst he was still a student.



Most of the time his responsibilities are in the North East. One day they could be further afield.

The selection processes for Officer training are pretty stringent, and he'd be the first to tell you how challenging the training can be.

But today he's a Lieutenant in the 101st Northumbrian Field Regiment in charge of an Artillery Troop.

Obviously it's not something you'd undertake lightly.

The TA represents a third of the Army's strength, and in the event of war David would be briefing his men in battle conditions alongside regular Army units.

There are plenty of different areas of responsibility in today's TA, every one of them as important as David's, and several different ways to become an Officer.

Like David, some people are selected to come in as potential Officers, whilst others start as soldiers.

If you think you have the fitness and ability to take on a task like this and you're prepared to devote both yourself, and a fair part of your leisure time to it, we'd like to hear from you.

Your time commitment will be at least 6 weekends and 2 weeks camp per year, plus some weekday evenings.

You'll be well paid for your time of course.

But like David, you'll probably find that the camaraderie and sense of service you get from TA life brings a reward that goes way beyond the simply financial.

Officer Find out more: If you are between 18 and 28 years of age and think you have the abilities we're looking for, complete the coupon and post it to Major Nigel Lay (Dept. T81P), Duke of York's HQ, Cannon Block, Chelsea, SW3 3SG or contact your nearest TA/R Association. (We're in the phone book under Army.)

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The Territorials

Community tussles 'twixt tweeds and leathers

by Adriana Caudrey

Dr David Hargreaves, the Inner London Education Authority's chief inspector, has warned the apostles of community education throughout Britain not to tackle the nuts and bolts of setting up schemes before they have first pinpointed their social and educational objectives.

He was addressing a major conference on the expansion of the progressive education-for-all schemes, entitled "Why Community Education?" But the question proved to be rhetorical, because all 200 people present were already converts to the philosophy.

Dr Hargreaves told them that the principle of community education was that it blurred the boundaries between educational establishments and their surrounding communities, as well as those between teachers and students, and work and leisure. It also demanded a redefinition of the concept of a community, and the abolition of age grading.

Dr Hargreaves divided the movement into three categories - traditional, reformist, and radical. The first two, he argued, could be organized within the existing framework of local politics, but the third was too revolutionary to be administered by local authorities.

The traditional schemes were based primarily on lifelong learning for all, and on consensus decision-making; the reformist looked to positive discrimination and decentralization; while the



Dr David Hargreaves (left) warned against premature detailed planning. Some conference members (above) discuss their philosophies.

radical were dedicated to providing political education, and sought change through conflict.

The exponents of community education proved to be as varied as their approaches. They included seasoned community teachers and workers, as well as novices, seeking tips on how to use the problem of redundant classrooms created by falling rolls to develop community education.

At last weekend's conference, called by the Community Education Association at the London University Union, the herringbone jackets of the Home Counties sat beside the striped jumpers and "natural" shoes of Hampstead; the mohair cardigans and woolly skirts of the shire counties next to the leather jackets of south London.

There were the radicals, reformists,



Some conference members (above) discuss their philosophies.

and traditionalists. There were those who thought community education should be school-centred and those who believed it should be a tawdry and reach out to the furthest points of the community.

Everyone was forced to go into groups to participate in a simulated bureaucratic exercise, which entailed playing the role of headteacher, parent, or local authority member, to debate setting up a scheme.

In one group, the traditional approach certainly was not going to work. "This group is too big to get a consensus" was the first remark, immediately followed by "Can I come clean and say, I don't like simulations?" from another participant.

The group tended to fall into the trap Dr Hargreaves had warned them

of, focussing on practical details before they had hammered out objectives. Thus they discussed the niceties of how to use a primary school for adult education. How could you have adults sitting in infants' chairs?

When the debates switched from fictitious Caterham, in north-west Herts, to the realities of south Brent in London, the debate became more constructive.

Mr Sandy Young, the deputy head responsible for community education at Aylestone Community School in Kilburn, said the school had 143 adults on its roll, all of whom studied O levels, A levels or City and Guilds courses with the sixth formers. It was open from 8am to 9pm, and all its functions came under the control of the headteacher.

One of its main advantages, in his

view, was that all age groups and abilities could study together. He would like the curriculum to be more adventurous, but recognized that it had to be "protected" for the statutory age groups. This was one of the limitations encountered when a school became the nucleus of a project.

A 26-year-old student at Aylestone said he left his job as a switchboard operator and went back to school because he "felt naked without qualifications".

In suit and tie, with dreadlocks below his shoulders, he said mixing with all ages at the school stopped him from becoming rigid in his views. However, he did not feel community schools would fully live up to their name until the curriculum changed to take into account the predominant ethnic groups for whom they catered.

Ada Pictou, had been a keen and craft student at the school, and passed a grade 1 CSE in the subject. Her only complaint was that there had been a big influx of pensioners, and she found some of them too talkative. "We come to school to learn... it is not a club," she said firmly.

Mr Harry Kéo - a disciple of Harry Morris, who pioneered the first community education in Cambridge, and editor of the movement's newspaper, *Network* - said the conference was the first to have brought together "such a concentration of people who are committed to community education". He believed the event might serve to "push the movement a little further on".

FEU launches scathing attack on exam bodies

by Mark Jackson

A remarkable attack on the examining bodies has been launched by the Further Education Unit, the Government-backed national advisory body for the college curriculum. It accuses them of indulging in a competitive free-for-all over 17-plus qualifications which risk deceiving students.

The principal target of the FEU board of management's criticism is the Joint Board for Pre-vocational Education, which is responsible for the new 17-plus certificate, the CPVE. But in a statement issued this week the FEU also attacks the school and FE examining bodies, and alleges they undermine the CPVE by moves which are "more related to market territories than to the creation of a more understandable and relevant structure of 17-plus education".

The FEU, which fathered the idea of nationalizing existing 17-plus pre-vocational courses into one national certificate, suggests that the Joint Board is backtracking from the concept.

It points to:

- a lack of encouragement by the board of external and local curriculum submissions;
- little guidance to school examining bodies on how to fit Certificate of Extended Education subjects into the CPVE;
- inadequate consideration of a late proposal from the Royal Society of Arts; and
- the announcement by the Business and Technician Education Council which, with City and Guilds, controls the Joint Board, of its own new competing vocational qualifications.

The FEU does not refer specifically to the decision of school examining boards to go on offering CEE alongside the CPVE, but it says that the climate of ambiguity produced by the actions of the board and its members is allowing a free-for-all.

"The FEU believes that the enterprise of the examination industry is getting out of hand and generating a degree of confusion dangerously near

to deception," says the board of management.

It suggests that there is a lack of consensus on the extent to which the 16-17 curriculum should be subject to market forces.

Young people, it says, are bound to be apprehensive about spending a year on pre-vocational education if employers insist on job-specific skills or FE examining bodies demand specific entry qualifications to further courses. And the messages coming from the FE examining bodies on the values of broad-based training and education are just as vague and confusing as those from the employers.

The FE suggests that the confusion of new competing qualifications raises the question of whether curriculum provision should be left to independent certifying bodies responsible only to themselves. It calls on the Government to remind the Joint Board's members that they were appointed with a commitment to rationalize courses, and says it is also time for the Department of Education and Science and the Manpower Services Commission to remove some of the ambiguity from their statements on the value of broad-based pre-vocational 17-plus education and training.

Mr Basil Henson, City and Guilds controller, who is one of the secretaries of the Joint Board, said this week that he could not understand the reference to the board's treatment of examining bodies. "We are looking to the schools and colleges for curriculum submissions because we want programmes to be designed locally. The role of institutions like the examining bodies is to feed into our thinking on the curriculum framework."

"As far as competition is concerned, we can't stop the school boards running their own CEE exams, and the new Business and Technician Education Council qualification is vocational, and therefore cannot be seen as competing with our pre-vocational certificate."



Circuit training: Part of an exhibition presented by teachers and pupils from TVEI projects at the School Technology Forum Conference at Trent Polytechnic last Saturday.

2-year YTS brief hard to obey, says Commission

There is no certainty that the Manpower Services Commission will be able to deliver a two-year Youth Training Scheme on the terms the Government has laid down. Its chairman, Mr Bryan Nicholson, says: "We cannot say yet whether it can be done for the money - it could be too little or too much."

Ministers are expecting the Commission to have full plans for the second year of the YTS ready by June, but they may have to wait a bit longer. Mr Nicholson told a press conference that the Commission's "enthusiastic though they are about the scheme, are not prepared to be rushed."

Mr Nicholson, asked what they would do if it became clear that the £300m that the Government was offering towards the cost of a second year of training was not enough, said that there was no question of producing an inferior cut-price version.

The Commission was aware that training in some sectors was more costly than in others, but would have to balance any possibility of differential funding against the need to keep the scheme as simple as possible.

A two-year training of the kind envisaged, said Mr Nicholson, could not be seen in isolation from what came before it and followed it. "We have got to look at the YTS and NAFE, too. We are building a true tapestry of the events that occur in young people's lives before 16 and after, and trying to integrate them together."

Despite Mr Nicholson's reservations, the Commission is already moving into the year to try to meet the deadline. Consultations will begin almost immediately with employers, unions, local authorities and various other interests. They will cover the funding, administration and content.

Government agrees to review funding for vocational schemes

The Government has agreed to a review of funding for vocational education and training to include maintenance grants for full-time vocational courses.

The investigation by the Manpower Services Commission will explore how the costs of all types of training and retraining can be met, and will take about a year.

The review, announced on Friday by the MSC's chairman, Mr Bryan Nicholson, will examine "all the available options" which would be likely to include a training tax on employers.

He would not know the terms of the remit before discussions with ministers after Easter, but the Commissioners wanted it to be as broad as possible. Mr Nicholson could not prejudice the issue by saying that the review should be wide-ranging, that meant there had to be access to all the ideas that were available.

Mr Nicholson's announcement came in response to a TES question about the significance of recent remarks by the MSC's director, Mr Geoffrey Holland, on the desirability of tackling the question of income support for 16- to 19-year-olds who did their training through full-time courses in schools or colleges.

Mr Nicholson said the Commissioners wanted to look at the sort of issues Mr Holland had been trailing. The Government's decision to sanction a review represents something of a U-turn. "The Commissioners first started to consider the need for such an exercise under the last chairman but one, Sir Richard O'Brien, who instructed officials to detail the options."

The report was still unpublished when Mr David Young, now Lord Young, took over the chair with his own strong view that training should be a matter for voluntary decisions by



Geoffrey Holland

employers and those undergoing the training, who should between them bear most of the cost.

He got the Commissioners to acquiesce in a pilot programme of training issues on the understanding, or perhaps misunderstanding, that it would be in the context of an overall review of training funding.

But ministers, who shared Lord Young's predominantly ideological view of the issues, gave short shrift to the Commissioners' hopes in the White Paper *Training for Jobs* published last year. They simply said that the White Paper itself constituted a sufficient review.

The Government's change of attitude may have a good deal to do with its growing nervousness about the prospects of implementing its offer to provide a second year of training in the YTS.

Edited by Mark Jackson

Rising costs provoke threat of 'action' over fees

Leaders of the OUSA have given a warning that members may withhold part of their course fee payments if there is another sharp rise in study costs next year.

Delegates voted overwhelmingly in favour of a motion calling for "direct actions" if 1986 fee increases were above the rate of inflation - a step which the university is believed to be considering.

Chris Roworth, the OUSA vice-president in charge of campaigns, told the conference: "The position is now so bad that many students are having to give up their studies because they cannot afford to go on. One survey has shown that 40 per cent of us have difficulty paying our fees."

An OU student starting this year faces the prospect of paying as much as £2,256 (at 1985 fee increases) to acquire an honours degree. A full credit course (six credits are required for an ordinary degree) costs £141, the summer school fee is £94 and some courses require students to spend more than £50 on books.

In the 1970s, local education authorities often helped with study costs but today less than a third of them reimburse summer school fees and only 6 per cent offer any assistance

with course fees. Additionally, OU students are now often at a serious disadvantage if they cannot afford to buy or hire a video cassette recorder. And last month the university's academic board decided that students on certain courses would have to own or have access to a home micro computer.

Several speakers at the conference said that although the OU had undoubtedly been a success, these mounting costs - coupled with reduced facilities and tutorial services - meant that students would consider switching to other universities such as Queen's, Belfast, which were competing in the part-time higher education market.

The OU's vice-chancellor, Dr John Horlock, in his speech to the conference, admitted that the reduction in Government grants to the university meant that students were beginning to have "a thinner educational experience".

He said that course materials would be reduced this year, while BBC transmissions would be cut by 25 per cent. There would be fewer tutorials and tutor-marked assignments, and some study centres would close. Furthermore, the cuts would continue into 1986 and 1987.

"We hope academic damage will not be done but we cannot be sure," he said. "The development of new courses will have to be limited and, in fact, our first language course, 'Understanding German', has had to be scrapped."

Another development mentioned by several worried delegates is the OU's new independent learner strategy, under which higher level courses will provide less page-by-page teaching guidance.

Dr Horlock assured the conference that the strategy was not being introduced in order to affect short-term economies but because the OU wanted to follow practices common at higher levels of undergraduate study in other universities.

He failed to convince many delegates, whose concern was voiced by Willi Butler, vice-president (education). "Whatever the pedagogic justification for this strategy it seems certain that it will come to mean not independent learner but isolated learner," he said.

● OUSA is to ask its 70,000 members to sign a petition calling on the Government to restore funding of the university to a level which enables it to maintain its outstanding services."

Tutors 'patronizing'

Male OU tutors have been told that they will have to be less patronizing towards their women students if they want them to take more maths, science and technology courses.

One woman student, Joella Wallis, of Nuneaton, said she had worked hard on one technology assignment only to have it returned with the comment: "It shows a woman's touch."

"Why is it when maths, science and technology results indicate a generally higher pass rate for women than on courses such as 'Introductory Electronics' they account for only 4 per cent of students?" she asked. "I believe it is partly because it is hard to convince a male tutor that what you have to say is worth listening to."

"The OU may have more women students on maths, science and technology courses than conventional universities do, but its figures are still not good enough."

She said she would like to see a higher percentage of women tutors in maths, science and technology, and said the OU should designate certain summer schools as ones that should have a higher percentage of women.

The maths, science and technology courses might also have more appeal if their summer schools were spread over three weekends, she said, because many mothers of young children found it impossible to attend a week-long summer school.

The motion was carried.

'Graduates thrown out'

Many of the OU students expelled in the past year for failing to make adequate progress had, in fact, already graduated, the conference was told.

Penny Goddard, a Hampshire student, said that the OU had deregistered 85 people who had gained six course credits (the number required for an ordinary degree) and were continuing towards an honours degree.

"The number of graduates who have been deregistered must have been even higher than that, however, for that figure does not include those who had credit exemptions for qualifications gained elsewhere," she said, opposing a national executive committee motion which asked conference to support the principle of deregistration.

"I fail to understand how an institution can expel its own graduates for not making progress," she said.

Dai Gibson, an NEC member, had earlier said that the main argument for deregistration was that it helped to safeguard the university's academic credibility. Students were deregistered only if they failed to gain any credits in their last four years of study.

The motion was carried.

Cool welcome for under-21s as age limit comes down

The OU's decision to admit 18- to 21-year-olds to its undergraduate programme has been greeted with something less than enthusiasm by the students' association.

OUSA has long had doubts about 18-year-olds' ability to cope with OU study techniques and has pointed to the high drop-out rate among under-21-year-olds who took part in a pilot scheme during the 1970s.

Nevertheless, 18-year-olds were admitted as associate students at the beginning of this year and from next February will be able to enrol as undergraduates.

In view of the decision, OUSA's national executive committee proposed a motion welcoming the younger students but warning that counselling services would have to be strengthened.

Pam Hopkins, a Welsh delegate, said: "I don't think OU students really want 18- to 21-year-olds in their tutorials."

But her reservations were not shared by Chris Deery, of Leeds. "I think you are a lot of old fogies," he said, to loud cheers. "I am dyslexic and got virtually no education at school. I was 19 when I first tried to join the OU and had to wait until I was 21."

● The conference rejected a proposal that OUSA should affiliate to the National Union of Students. However, the branch argued in favour of the union, fronting against Government education cuts, but its motion was defeated after delegates learned that OUSA would have to pay an affiliation fee of £10,000 to 20,000 members.

Streamlining blueprint

An OU efficiency study has recommended that a new internal management group - the Vice-Chancellor's Management Team - be set up to strengthen existing planning procedures and help the university to maintain increased activity in the face of funding cuts.

The team would develop university plans and make recommendations to the University Council for allocation of resources, within academic policies and priorities laid down by the senate.

An OU spokesman said this week: "The study was requested by Mr Peter Brooke, higher education minister, and carried out under a steering committee chaired by Mr Bryan Rubenstein, vice-chairman of the OU Council."

The report identifies savings of £1 million a year (that might be achieved by 1990) and suggests a number of

Teacher training plans upset I.e.a.s

Local authority anger at the way the Manpower Services Commission is handling its new role as a sponsor of in-service training for secondary and college teachers has taken the Commission by surprise. None of the local government or education service representatives on the Commission had hinted that there was anything wrong with its approach.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities may boycott this month's meeting of the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative national steering group because the MSC is taking it to prepare guidelines and criteria for the training. Although the MSC is providing for INSET related to the YTS, the association says that the Commission should deal with the individual local authorities directly rather than get a national body to adjudicate between their bids.

Mr Bryan Nicholson, the MSC's chairman, was startled to learn of AMAs' complaint last week. "Good heavens," he said, "The last thing we want to do is to be prescriptive."

Education authorities will have to put up proposals for teacher training programmes, but there will also be a central fund to encourage national and regional initiatives.

Among the kinds of INSET to be covered will be:

- training in relevant areas of the curriculum, especially craft design and technology, information technol-

ogy, micro-electronics, business studies, and physical science;

- training to produce more practical, relevant teaching across all areas of the curriculum;
- training in new teaching approaches designed to increase the student's responsibility for his or her learning; and
- training to promote understanding of industry and commerce.

The Government intends that the interim scheme will operate until it can introduce legislation extending the Education Secretary's powers to grant aid in-service training of teachers.

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Further particulars and application forms from The Admissions Office, Stirling University, Stirling, FK11 0AU.

Colleges assist exporters

Colleges in the West Midlands have formed a commercial agency to help firms improve their export prospects with special training packages in foreign laws, customs and languages.

The University of Aston, Warley College of Technology, Coventry Technical College, Solihull College of Technology, Tamworth College of Education and Gloucester College of Arts and Technology have pooled their resources to set up the agency, International Consultants, which is based at the university.

The scheme is one of 17 large projects set up so far in the Local Collaborative Projects programme funded jointly by the Department of

Education and Science's PICKUP (professional, industrial and commercial updating) programme and the Manpower Services Commission.

Mr David Cragg, industrial liaison officer at Warley, said: "The project will also help people working for multi-national companies in dealing with their foreign colleagues."

The first schemes agreed include:

- helping designers of car brakes to liaise with their German sales force;
- advising a chemicals firm on safety markings required by EEC law for its tankers; and
- providing background knowledge of Chinese industry for a company exporting mining equipment.

Courses

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THE 16-PLUS CRITERIA

Susannah Kirkman completes her round-up of the criteria for GCSE subjects

History

The criteria demand more emphasis on historical reasoning and analysis rather than regurgitating facts. One of the aims is to promote an understanding of the nature of cause and consequence, continuity and change, similarity and difference.

Pupils will be encouraged to assess the past and to use source material to interpret events. Another aim is to develop the ability to locate and extract information from primary and secondary sources, and to detect bias and to analyse and construct a logical argument from this information.

As part of assessment, candidates will have to interpret and evaluate historical evidence which will not necessarily be related to their particular syllabus.

To achieve Grade F, candidates will have to show the obvious limitations of a piece of evidence and list some of the evidence needed to reconstruct a given historical event. For Grade C, candidates must be able to demonstrate the limitations of a piece of evidence by, for instance, pointing to generalizations or the use of emotive language.

Course work counts for at least 20 per cent of the marks. There will be a common set of papers with some differentiated elements.

There is no minimum core of content so that examining groups can devise schemes which reflect local interests. But each examining group must offer at least one syllabus which "helps pupils towards an understanding of the intellectual, cultural, technological and political growth of the United Kingdom and of the effects of these developments on the lives of its citizens."

Classical subjects

Different criteria apply to linguistic and non-linguistic exam courses. Syllabuses like Latin and Roman civilization will combine both types of criteria.

But in Latin and Greek courses, pupils must have studied enough literature to respond to Roman and Greek authors, as well as enough language to understand an unprepared prose passage. And they must read at least two kinds of literature from prose, poetry and drama.

Knowledge and understanding of the literature, life, history and customs of the Greek or Roman people must account for between 10 and 25 per cent of the marks in the linguistic exam.

It is up to examining groups to decide how much lexical help candidates should receive and to balance this with the difficulty of the linguistic tests. Translation must not be the only test of linguistic skills.

Coursework will count for between 20 and 50 per cent of the marks in non-linguistic subjects. It can be used to test candidates' informed, personal response to classical literature in translation.

Pupils should also show an understanding and evaluation of classical achievements, as well as an awareness of the source material from which information is derived.

Civilization should be studied through art and archaeology, as well as through other evidence. And pupils should compare their own civilization with classical civilizations and become aware of classical influences.

Knowledge and understanding should make up between 40 and 60 per cent of the marks. Evaluation, application and response should be weighted between 40 and 60 per cent, too.

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NEWS

Glossary of terms

Aims should consist of statements setting out the educational purposes of following a course in a particular subject at GCSE.

Assessment objectives describe the skills and abilities which are measured and recorded through assessment in a particular exam subject. Common core (syllabus): the body of subject content and the range of skills and activities which all pupils

are expected to have covered.

Course work is assessed internally by teachers for exams. It measures and encourages the development of skills which are not easily tested in timed, written exams.

Differentiated exams/components: different parts of the exam are set at varying levels of ability to meet the needs of candidates of different

levels of ability.

Grade descriptions attempt to describe the expected attainment of candidates awarded Grade C and Grade F in the GCSE exam. They will eventually be superseded by the grade related criteria, which will offer more exact descriptions of what candidates must be able to do to achieve a particular grade.

knowledge, analysis and judgement count for at least 60 per cent.

A minimum of 20 per cent of marks must also be awarded on the basis of course work, which has not generally been required before.

The core content includes:
● The functions of organizations and institutions like trade unions and banks;
● Economic activity as a means of achieving certain ends over time - for example, economic growth as a means of maximizing welfare; enterprise as a means of providing income, employment, profits; public sector programmes;

● Economic variables and elementary theory - for example, supply and demand, competition and monopoly; and
● The interdependence of the parts of the British economy and its whole and the global interdependence of national economies.

Syllabuses must contain:
● First-hand study of a small area, preferably the student's home area;
● Study of contrasting themes within the British Isles, including population, agriculture, industry and communications;

● Consideration of the UK's relationships with wider groups of nations such as the EEC;
● Study of the geographical aspects of important social and environmental issues; and
● The interrelationship and interaction between people and their environments.

Recall: the understanding and application of skills and the use of practical skills all have the same weighting for assessment, between 20 and 40 per cent of the total marks.

Social Science

The criteria concentrate on method, process and skills rather than memory recall. Interpretation, evaluation and application of material should make up between 20 and 40 per cent of the total marks, analysis, 20 to 40 per cent, organization, 20 to 30 per cent and recall, between 20 and 35 per cent.

One of the four key content areas is the handling of data. The others are knowledge, understanding and skills in three areas: social institutions and processes, politics and government and economic awareness.

Assessment objectives stress the use of source material. They include the ability to:
● Select, organize, analyse, interpret and evaluate social scientific knowledge; and
● Distinguish between evidence and opinion, and to recognize deficiencies such as bias and inconsistency in material.

All syllabuses must give "due attention" to cross-cultural study as a method, and to promote awareness of cultural differences between and within societies. They must also include the implications of gender for the society and the individual.

Course work must contribute between 20 and 40 per cent to the final marks.

The criteria emphasize conceptual understanding and are not as descriptive as traditional syllabuses. Candidates must be able to explain and apply appropriate terminology, concepts and elementary theory and to distinguish between evidence and opinion.

Data response questions, testing the techniques which economists need to interpret data, must account for at least 20 per cent of the total marks. Candidates must show that they can select, analyse, interpret and apply data.

While knowledge and understanding should make up at least 40 per cent of the total marks, application of

CDT

There are three main titles for certification:
CDT: Design and Realization
CDT: Technology
CDT: Design and Communication.

But exam boards are free to submit proposals for other "endorsement titles" which describe particular areas under study. Traditional skill-based subjects like metalwork and woodwork which do not satisfy the criteria will have to be submitted under the general criteria and will not be entitled to the prefix "CDT".

The three titles have common aims, assessment objectives, grade descriptions and techniques of assessment, but separate content, and its relationship to assessment objectives is spelled out for each of the three titles. Between 30 and 50 per cent of the marks should be allocated to course work, half of which must be for practical work.

The aims include:
● Fostering awareness, understanding and expertise in those areas of creative thinking which can be expressed and developed through investigation and research, planning, designing making and evaluating and working with materials and tools.

The assessment objectives include:
● Gathering, ordering and assessing the information relevant to the solution of practical or technological problems; and
● Analysing and producing design specifications which have been self-identified or posed by others.

Home Economics

The criteria demand an integrated, problem-solving approach to home economics. The main assessment objective is to analyse situations by "identifying the human needs and material factors involved, to recognize the inter-relationships of these needs and factors," and to apply knowledge to them.

Other assessment objectives include justifying judgements and choices in the light of evidence and evaluating the effectiveness of a course of action. It will no longer be enough to make a garment; a candidate will have to show why a particular material or design was chosen.

Candidates may choose to concentrate on one or more of the major aspects of home economics: family food, home and textiles - which will count for 60 per cent of the course. But all students must also study a common core which will be present in the main study and extend from it to the other major areas.

If the main study is the home and the theme is efficiency in household routines, then the student will have to consider the sequences for preparing food, baby-care routines and the sequencing of tasks in constructing a garment.

The common core or themes are supposed to bring the four main aspects of home economics into interaction with each other. They are: human development, health, safety and protection, efficiency, values, aesthetics and interaction with the environment.

All main studies should also include the following skills: investigation, measurement, communication, management, psycho-motor and technology.

Assessment of the core should be "diffused" through the examination as a whole rather than assessed in separate papers. Between 30 and 50 per cent of marks should be allocated to the assessment of practical work.

Religious Studies

The criteria require a broad-based study of religion which emphasizes the variety of religious faith, its place in life and the part it plays in forming human behaviour. All courses should promote an enquiring, sympathetic and critical response to the study.

All candidates should be able to show understanding of:
● Language, terms and concepts used in religion;
● The role and importance in religion of special people, writing and traditions;

● The principal beliefs of the religions studied;
● Religious and non-religious responses to contemporary moral issues;

● Questions about the meaning of life and the variety of faith; and
● Issues of belief and practice arising from the study of religion.

Candidates may either study one or two major world religions through a variety of different approaches, or make a thematic study of three major world religions under headings like "Founders" or "Leaders" or "Worship" and "Ritual".

School-based assessment should account for between 20 and 30 per cent of the marks.

Art and Design

Art advisers have welcomed the criteria. They say that most of the aims and objectives already form the basis of current good practice in schools, but the criteria will give pupils the chance to express themselves in a far broader way. The aims include the development of manipulative skills as well as the encouragement of intuitive and analytical abilities.

There is also relief that for the first time all exams are to be scrutinized, which will ensure comparability of standards between different boards. Some teachers may be disappointed that critical and historical studies are not an exam requirement, although one of the subject's aims is to increase understanding of the work of artists, designers, architects and craftsmen.

Other aims include the:
● Development of visual and intellectual awareness through practical skills, relevant theory and "conscious decisions based on intuitive, analytical and synthesizing processes";
● Use of a wide range of materials and techniques in which to work and experiment; and
● Encouragement of the ability to identify and solve problems in a tactile form, and relate abstract ideas to practical outcomes.

Pupils may choose to concentrate on one area from the following assessment: drawing and painting, graphics, textiles, three-dimensional studies, photography. Or they may submit work based on several areas.

Coursework should count for at least 25 per cent of the final mark. A "controlled test" where candidates work to a brief within a time limit will make up at least another 25 per cent of the marks. Some schemes will allow teachers to set and assess coursework and controlled tests.

Computer Studies

The criteria aims include:

- Fostering an awareness of what characterizes information, information processing and computer systems;
- Developing reasoning, judgement and persistence in applying, creatively, information processing technology to problems which are relevant and worthwhile to the student; and
- Developing an awareness of the ethical, social, economic and political consequences of the use of computers.

The five assessment objectives include:

- Showing a knowledge and understanding of the techniques used to solve problems;
- Using computers sensibly to produce solutions to appropriate problems and document their solutions; and
- Demonstrating a knowledge and understanding of the functions of the main hardware and software components of a computer system and their relationships with the presentation of stored data and programs.

Weightings are given to each of the assessment objectives. Differentiated papers or questions will be used in schemes of assessment.

Sixty per cent of assessment will be based on timed written papers. A candidate's use of computers can only be tested through school-based continuous assessment by teachers. Additional assessment objectives can be added to the syllabus.

The criteria are basically the same as those proposed by the GCE and CSE Boards' Joint Council in 1983.

Business Studies

The business studies criteria take a more detailed look at the world of work than some courses in the past. One of the aims is to "promote knowledge and appreciation of the working world" and to encourage students to participate in society "through group activity within the classroom and direct experience outside it."

There must also be "significant coverage of the roles and relationships in which the student is likely to be involved as a participant in business behaviour."

The criteria offer an integrated course, rejecting the commerce, economics and accounting options which were first proposed. There are five essential areas of study: the external environment of the business, business structure and organization, business behaviour, people in business and aiding and controlling business activity.

Syllabuses can either be entirely based on the core content, or examining groups can offer an option based on one of the core areas which would account for 20 per cent of the syllabus.

One of the aims is to develop numeracy, literacy and discovery skills; recall of knowledge only accounts for 40 per cent of the total marks. Yet many advisers still feel that the aims are based too much on content and not enough on skills, and that the approach is too academic.

Course work should make up between 20 and 40 per cent of the marks and must include project work or cross-modular assignments which offer students the opportunity to work together in groups.

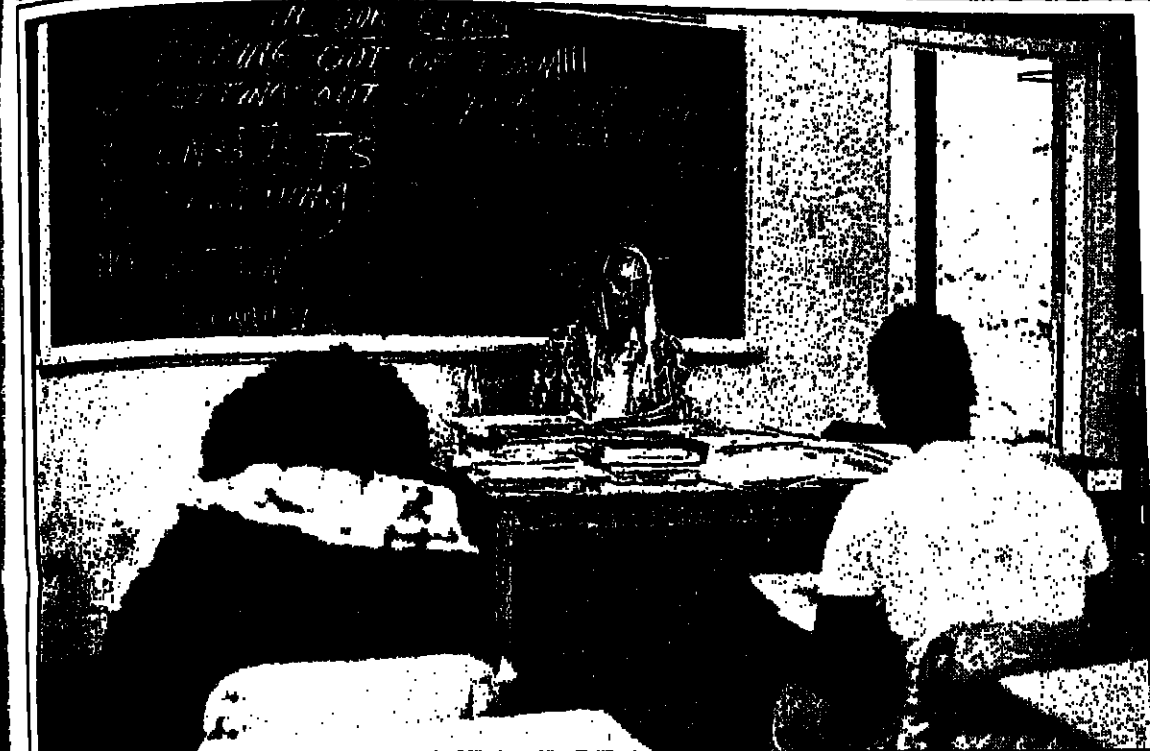
Music

The criteria are more concerned with making music and listening to it than with facts about the people who wrote it. They reject the traditional academic approach and substitute three main content areas: listening, performing and composing.

Candidates must be able to respond critically to a wide variety of styles as part of the listening test. They should be able to follow a score and identify different styles of music.

Performing unseen and unprepared music is another assessment objective. Candidates may sing or use any instrument they choose, and may play any style of music, including pop, folk or Afro-Caribbean.

They must also be able to sing or play a part of an ensemble as it is felt that this will give them a chance to develop their leisure interests, as well as to learn the cooperative skills needed to make music. Students must be able to improvise.



An unofficial swap arrangement exists for students who are persistently unruly

Where teachers go armed with more than knowledge

UNITED STATES

Bill Norris reports on the murder, arson and assault rife in many city schools

Theory, vandalism and theft were once common problems in America's schools. Indeed they still are but have now joined by a more sinister trio: murder, arson and assault. Small wonder that urban school systems are offering "combat pay" to teachers required to work in "high crime" schools.

The violence is not universal: it is mainly confined to the large urban areas with their heavy concentrations of racially mixed, poor and disadvantaged children.

But it is bad enough for the American Federation of Teachers to set up a national commission on school violence, which has just begun hearing testimony from dozens of witnesses in Detroit.

In Detroit, 120 students were shot in school last year. And teachers have been assaulted so often that they no longer conduct after-school or evening parent-teacher conferences. At the same time school security officers conduct frequent spot-checks with portable metal detectors to keep out the guns and knives.

In Los Angeles, where teachers are assaulted at the rate of more than one a day, there is a school security force of 302 armed guards and a budget of \$12 million (£10 million) to keep the violence in check.

As part of this the Los Angeles schools operate a "closed gate" policy: only the front door of the building is unlocked to allow pupils and teachers in. Once they are inside, all the gates are locked and armed guards monitor the hallways. No one gets out until the final bell.

Even so, California's teachers remain unimpressed. A poll last year showed that 60 per cent of Los Angeles teachers feel unsafe at school. According to their local union president, Wayne Johnson, they need "aggressive support", although he does not specify how "aggressive" the security measures should be.

The situation in New York is similar. There, about 3,000 teachers are assaulted every year. Half these attacks are non-physical harassment.

The school authorities employ more than 2,000 security guards at enormous cost. The budget for vandalism and damage to schools runs into several million dollars annually.

As yet, the New York school security system has not resorted to firearms. And Ed Muir, chairman of the United Federation of Teachers School Safety Committee, says they hope to avoid doing so.

Teachers are being instructed on ways to defuse potentially dangerous situations. Mr Muir said: "We're telling our teachers to be careful about

triggering fights in the classroom. For instance, if a student threatens to march out of a class, the teacher should not respond by saying, 'You're leaving this room over my dead body,' because the student just might try to arrange that."

This softly-softly policy seems to be having some effect. There has been a slight fall in recent years in the number of chronically-unsafe schools in New York. A high school is rated unsafe if it has 20 or more violent incidents a year. Middle schools get this rating with 10 incidents, and elementary schools with five. Being thus rated for three years in a row a school is deemed chronically unsafe.

Technology, too, is playing its part in school crime. Students in New York City schools now use magnetic cards to unlock the front doors and get into their classrooms, and two-way closed circuit television watches over the hallways and doors.

Alternative schools have been set up for the most disruptive children. But such institutions, with their smaller pupil-teacher ratio, are costly. There are not enough of them to cope with the problem.

As a result something called the "lemon market" - a term which could surely only have been coined in New York - operates a sort of unofficial swap-shop between school principals. Faced with a disruptive child for whom no alternative school place is available, the principal will ring round his colleagues until he finds one with a

similar problem. Or, as Mr Muir puts it: "The principal calls up another principal and says 'I'll trade you a banana for a coconut'."

The two troublesome students then exchange schools. And removed from the audience of their friends, they generally settle down. At least for a while. Considering the magnitude of the problem, principals in New York go to surprising lengths to avoid the final sanction of expulsion.

Not all school districts have the resources of Los Angeles, Detroit or New York, to cope with crime and violence. Fortunately few of them have the same degree of trouble, either. For the past two years the United States justice and education departments have been working on a joint pilot project to find out how the average school can best combat crime and violence.

In the three areas chosen for study - two in Florida and one in Illinois - school administrators "have" been taught how to use law enforcement techniques and technology to fight their problem. But teachers have been reluctant to involve the police.

Unfortunately this unwillingness to prosecute the students has rebounded on them. There have been several cases of school administrators being sued by parents of students assaulted by other children, on the grounds that the school should have known of the culprit's violent nature.

The union will try to get these provisions repealed.

Despite the presence of security guards 120 students were shot in Detroit last year

But the dismissed teachers will be getting their jobs back, simply because there is no one to take their place.

Teacher pay in Mississippi, an average of \$15,960 (about £13,300) per year, is the lowest in the United States. "I don't have a queue of applicants beating down my door," says one school administrator.

From the outset of the strike, which at its peak involved more than a third of the state's teachers, the union faced tough opposition from the governor, Mr Bill Clinton. He opposed the pay rises on the grounds that they would require "increases in local taxation (or soft drinks and sales of new cars) to raise the extra \$71 million."

At the eleventh hour, he attempted to veto the Bill which would implement the new agreement. But the governor was overruled by the legislature, both houses of which voted overwhelmingly for the pay deal which now has the force of law.

Despite its gains the Mississippi Education Association, the state's largest teachers' union, is not completely happy. As a part of the package they had to accept a strict anti-strike agreement whereby striking teachers will be fired, and only re-hired if there is an emergency shortage in the classrooms. In addition, school board members and administrators who refuse to dismiss striking teachers will be liable to fines.

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OVERSEAS

Mary Follain on a bid to improve public opinion of the school system

Express need for good publicity

FRANCE

The French education ministry is spending at least eight million francs (£570,000) on a publicity campaign to put state education back on the rails - by sending a specially decked-out train around the country with an exhibition on board.

M. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, Education Minister, says: "Everyone talks about schools, but schools rarely talk about themselves. Few people know what they are really like today and public opinion is more sensitive to failure than to success."

He is confident that the state system can only benefit from greater openness and that the campaign which he has christened *Vive l'Ecole* will show people that its achievements outweigh its shortcomings.

The train with its nine specially equipped carriages will tour France for 45 days, stopping at 33 towns on the way, linking up as it does so with "education weeks" organized by local officials in the various regions.

M. Chevènement will officiate at its send-off in Lille on April 15 and again in Toulouse, Aix-en-Provence, Grenoble, not forgetting Belfort, his home town, of which he is the mayor, before finishing up in Paris on May 31.

The secretaries of state for the universities and for technical education will be on the locomotives for discussion at stops as far apart as Rennes, Strasbourg and Nice. The debate will be filmed in a television studio on the train and relayed by closed circuit. A compartment will be set aside for the rest of each region (the most important area education official), who will hold discussions with local dignitaries and industrialists.

M. Chevènement sees the train as a

Vive l'Ecole!

Liberté Egalité Fraternité



Jean-Pierre Chevènement, Education Minister (centre) with Roland Carraz, Technical Education Minister (left) and Roger-Gerard Schwartzberg, University Minister.

shop-window for education. The public can ask questions of a committee of educationists who will also guide them round the train's compartments to look at books and publications, videos and data banks.

On exhibition will be the computer hardware which the ministry is rushing into schools this year. Some visitors will be able to record their impressions and these may be taken up for debate. One likely comment, however, is that the money could have been better spent since French schools are suffering financially.

M. Chevènement dismisses the cost as negligible. "It only represents a one millionth part of the total education budget and works out at less than 50 centimes (5 pence) per pupil," he says. He obviously believed that the *Vive l'Ecole* campaign is worth every centime if it can raise the status of education after the criticism which hit it during its collision with the private system last summer.

The education minister's own image is in little need of refurbishing. He leapt several points in the opinion polls last month and his policies are more

popular than the left-wing, wide-sweeping plans of his predecessor, M. Alain Savary, who resigned last summer. His insistence on discipline, effort and good citizenship; on old-fashioned values and the three Rs has reassured parents and teachers who have felt disappointed with so-called pedagogical innovation over the past 20 years.

M. Chevènement's reform of primary education to be published this month rests on the maxim that the main function of primary schools is to instruct and teach the basic skills. His message is well received by parents.

Icelanders win 60% pay rises

Teachers in secondary schools have ended their 25-day strike after the Icelandic government agreed to increase its pay offer.

The original offer of a 30 per cent increase has given way to rises of up to 60 per cent.

About 10,000 of Iceland's 14,000 youngsters in upper secondary schools were affected by the strike in support of a demand for a 90 per cent pay increase.

In its response, the government acknowledged that teachers had slipped down the wages league - and special wages courts are to decide their pay levels.

Five hundred teachers had submitted three months notice of mass resignation to go on strike on March 1. The action, supported by the Icelandic teachers' and academics' unions, culminated in a one-day general strike by all state and private school teachers. Large demonstrations were staged in Reykjavik.

Upper secondary schools and institutes of further education were thrown into disarray, leading parents to threaten legal action against the state.

Despite affluence and one of the world's lowest unemployment rates, discontent has grown in the country about the government's handling of the economy. The inflation rate is at the root of the problem. It averaged 55 per cent a year between 1977 and 1983.

Between 1982 and 1983 the value of Iceland's currency fell by 83 per cent. At one stage in 1983, the rise in its cost of living reached an astronomical annual rate of 130 per cent. Today, however, inflation is down to just over 20 per cent, but the real purchasing power of wages has fallen by 40 per cent in the past year.

Christopher Follett

Chance to specialize

SWEDEN

Reform of teacher training for comprehensive schools in Sweden has been proposed in a Bill presented to Parliament by the Ministry of Education. One of its main objectives is the introduction of compulsory specialization in order to improve the teaching of "basics" such as reading, writing and mathematics.

Another Bill before Parliament seeks far-reaching changes in the job structure of teachers employed in Sweden's higher education system.

Teacher-training colleges are to offer four alternative programmes of specialization. They are civic education and the Swedish language, or scientific subjects including mathematics, or Swedish and two other languages or a combination of practical and aesthetic subjects in addition to either mathematics, Swedish or a foreign language.

No changes are proposed in teacher training for upper secondary schools as it already requires specialization in two main subjects. The proposed reforms will extend the training of teachers for comprehensive schools by up to 18 months, making the total training period between three-and-a-half and four-and-a-half years.

The second Bill introduced by the ministry calls for the replacement of many existing teacher and researcher categories in higher education by the following three main classifications: professors, lecturers holding a doctorate or equivalent, and others holding a basic university degree. The Bill also seeks to further the decentralization of administration by making educational institutions responsible for hiring their own teachers, with the central government retaining control over the appointment of full professors.

The government wants to promote links between education and industry by removing administrative restrictions hitherto preventing students in most job categories from combining teaching with research work.

Thomas Land

Strike in Chile after union leader found dead

Teachers in Chile staged a 24-hour strike on Tuesday after a leader of the country's teachers' union was found with his throat cut and his body showing signs of torture in a country road just outside the capital city, Santiago.

Senor Manuel Guerrero, 36, president of the Santiago Teachers' Association, which is opposed to the military government, was abducted from the gates of his school on Friday by armed civilians - together with a parent of pupils at his school, Sr Jose Manuel Parada, who worked in the local department of the Catholic Church's human rights office.

Sr Parada's body was also found in the same place and a teacher at the school, Sr Leopoldo Munoz, was gravely ill in hospital after being shot in the stomach trying to prevent the kidnapping.

The body of a third Chilean, Sr Santiago Nattino, a draughtsman, was also found. His relatives said he had disappeared on Thursday afternoon. Seven people were hurt outside Santiago Cathedral on Sunday afternoon as riot police broke up demonstrations over the killings, according to witnesses present.

In addition, *the TES* was told, the offices of the teachers' union were broken into and damaged by police as union members were awaiting the arrival of Sr Guerrero's body for a "lying in state" in his honour.

Reports also said that four other union leaders, including Sr Alejandro Traverso, his general secretary, had been kidnapped at the previous Thursday evening. However, they were released at the weekend in different parts of Santiago.

The teachers' association has been critical of the military government of President Pinochet - and it is believed the trio were killed by pro-government death squads for their involvement with the Communist Party, which had governed the country until a military coup forced them out of office.

At the time of going to press, it was not known how successful the 24-hour strike had been - bearing in mind that a news blackout closed the relatively short time the union had to organize a national stoppage were likely to limit the number of teachers involved in it.

A core with flexibility

A national core curriculum has been proposed for India's schools, but it is to be one with a flexible framework to allow individual schools in different states to provide specific local topics of study.

Its purpose would not be to impose federal control on learning, but to reduce disparities and to prevent "islands of elitism" from springing up.

The curriculum has been recommended by the National Council for Educational Research and Training, a federal advisory body which carried out a year-long study in four Indian states and some Delhi schools. Three aspects of the present curriculum were investigated: its length, the course content, and the language used in textbooks.

The study found that schools, on average, worked only 150 to 170 days a year; average class size, even in private schools, could be as high as 50.

Teachers were seen to shift responsibility to parents by increasing homework. Primary teachers were particularly ill-equipped for a job requiring them to teach all subjects. Regular in-service training has been urgently recommended.

Dr P. L. Malhotra, NCERT director, says the new curriculum will be ready in July. It is to have a minimum of information and is to avoid the surplus of it in textbooks, as the study found that private schools often used three textbooks where one had been recommended.

A S Abraham

Baroness Warnock's BBCTV Dimpleby Lecture on the state of teaching has brought strong reactions.

Reinforcing the shallow stereotype of parents

Sir - Baroness Warnock spoke much good sense. But what a great pity that she should use her influence to reinforce the shallow stereotypes of parental attitudes already far too prevalent among teachers.

There are, she implied, only two types of parents - the pushing and the indifferent, both inimical to the teacher's work. Parents should not be allowed near class teachers, and the head's wisest course, one gathered, is to put them firmly in their place from the outset. The only legitimate function of a PTA is to raise money for the school.

I have been a teacher, a parent, and a child; as educational psychologist my role was frequently to interpret the views of these three parties to one another and to see some constructive harmonization of their respective outlooks. Of course one meets, among the interested, cooperative majority, some unsatisfactory attitudes in pa-

rents, as in children and - yes, even in teachers.

With goodwill the dissonances can usually be resolved. Without it, children's loyalties are divided and they suffer emotionally and educationally. That, I am certain, Baroness Warnock knows and deplores. But to repudiate, as she did, the enlightened concept enunciated in the report of her own committee on special educational needs - the concept of a *partnership* between teachers and parents in the educational process as a whole - is surely a retrograde step likely to widen yet another split in our society. Has she ever asked the children she champions so warmly how they would like to see their parents and teachers relating to one another?

TERENCE MOORE
Professor Emeritus
30 Lashbrook Road
Uckfield
East Sussex

Correct analysis

Sir - I am a graduate teacher and have taught in middle schools for 11 years. I took great interest in two speeches last month. One was Baroness Warnock's lecture and the second was Mrs Thatcher's speech in Newcastle.

Baroness Warnock threw a lifebelt of hope to teachers drowning in a sea of low morale, disrespect and falling confidence - a failing confidence in Sir Keith Joseph, the employing authorities and, dare I say, the teachers' professional associations who have now been forced into a corner and finally, after years of asking, have had to resort to "common sense" disruptive measures of striking and withdrawal of goodwill.

Baroness Warnock gave an overwhelmingly sensible account of the teachers' dilemma and the course of action needed to put the house in order. We certainly need to improve our confidence and be more professional. I would welcome a system of assessment controlled by a body of teachers.

The suggestion of teacher/tutors to help train new teachers gives aspiring

classroom practitioners a worthwhile position to aim for and would certainly help students where they need help most - in the classroom.

Her comments on the restructuring of the teaching career and associated salaries breathe an air of hope for ambitious teachers whose only chance for promotion is very limited or eventually takes them out of the classroom.

It was very sad that Mrs Thatcher did not clearly congratulate Baroness Warnock for her commonsense and vision instead of implying that clerics and dons were not worth listening to. However, Mrs Thatcher did point out that one of the priority tasks in dealing with unemployment was "better education and training".

Baroness Warnock has provided the blueprint. Mrs Thatcher has highlighted the importance of education, meanwhile, I, the lone teacher, wait at the chalkface in hope, desperate hope, for something to be done.

J R LONGCROFT-NEAL
82 Charnwood Drive
Hartshill
Nuneaton
Warwickshire

Suiting students

Sir - It is quite clear that the principal of Wakefield District College has only recently taken to reading *the TES*. Regular readers will have a full awareness of the reasons for the need for the continuing of the Certificate of Extended Education as well as all thinking teachers.

Who is "fighting shy of CPVE challenge?" (*TES*, March 22) Those who look to the needs of pupils in secondary schools appreciate that there is a need for Certificate of Extended Education type courses, but also the need for CBE courses. The arguments for both are

self-evident for those who are cognisant of the content and aims of both types of certification.

Many students are not prepared to take on the package deal that CPVE offers, since they will be required to study and be assessed in areas in which they already have achieved success. As a consequence, these latter will not consolidate areas where they have not succeeded and so welcome the single subject opportunity that CBE offers. In the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Examinations Board area alone there were 5,388 entries in 1984 who studied area were assessed in CBE subject areas. The aim, of course, is to have acceptable qualifications to be accepted for their chosen vocation.

Swann summary

Sir - The Runnymede Trust is preparing a brief summary of the contents of the Swann Report, "Education for All". It will be available from May 3 priced 50p plus postage.

We had intended, before the report appeared, to do such a summary as one of our regular monthly background papers, but there is a particular reason why we think your readers would be glad to know of it. The "guide" to the report which the DES has issued does not include the conclusions of the report, nor does it summarize the contents of all the chapters. The chapter on racism, for instance, is not even mentioned.

Wrong quote

Sir - Mary Hoffman is very generous in her treatment of my book, *Reading and Writing* (*TES*, March 22). But on a point of strict accuracy the book does not have "Sed" in any saying certain things - your child can read them, but that they are wonderful "whether or not your child can make head nor tail of them".

This could make a difference to the child to Mr. Ingalls and to me.

ROBERT LEESON
15 McKenna Road
Bromsgrove



Baroness Warnock

Think again

Sir - Baroness Warnock's lecture contained quantities of common sense and sound educational ideals, delivered with considerable conviction. However, I wonder if she has given deep enough thought to one of her major points, that of the concept of teacher-tutors.

In theory, many of us would agree that teacher trainers often lack sufficient up-to-date knowledge of schools and are divorced from the realities of the classroom as well as from interaction with the main bulk of the teaching profession. But, similarly, many teachers, for a variety of reasons, are equally distanced from current educational developments and innovations and have settled comfortably into doing a competent but mundane job of teaching.

My other objection lies with the children. If these teacher-tutors par excellence are to spend 50 per cent of their time and energies with a group of students in a "sitting next to Nelly" situation and the other half in maintaining their position as the crème-de-la-crème of class teachers where does this leave the children?

Those who think comprehensively about the needs of pupils never fight shy of ensuring that there are as many avenues as possible for students to take in order to be equipped to enter the vocation of their choice.

Schools do not decide to do what is best for schools, but do in fact, endeavour to offer what is best for the students. A fact that Mr. Ruddiman does, or should, already know.

JOHN SNOWDON
Headmaster
Outwood Grange School
Potovens Lane
Outwood
Wakefield

Since the price of £24.00 for the full report will undoubtedly prevent many people from reading it, we hope to make available a clear description of its many points at a price that teachers and parents will welcome.

ANN DUMMETT
Director
The Runnymede Trust
37a Gray's Inn Road
London WC1

Letters for publication should be kept as brief as possible and typed on one side of the paper only. The Editor reserves the right to cut or amend them.

All have a say

Sir - In her lecture, Baroness Warnock made the useful point that we need a united teaching profession, with a council of policy and power - which indeed seemed a real possibility about 30 years ago.

Regrettably the general tone of her talk seemed that of an erstwhile grammar school headmistress who had a limited view of parents as either "pushy" or "indifferent". In fact, parents and other members of the communities which surround our schools are increasingly becoming important contributors to the whole educational upbringing of children.

Many people other than teachers have skills, interests and real knowledge to contribute, and which they readily share when encouraged so to do; we should rejoice in their giving and caring.

The National Association for Primary Education came into being precisely in order to bring together all who are concerned to improve the education of all our children.

Of course we need teachers who know more about more and with greater competence comes confidence, but though schooling is a very important part of education, the future is a whole responsibility for all of us gladly to accept, to become involved with, and to pay for.

LEN COWIE
Formerly Staff Inspector for
Primary and Special Education
Surrey

Olive branch

Sir - Baroness Warnock's lecture must be seen as the most fertile olive branch ever to hang over the educational garden.

That the profession and education is in a sorry state cannot be denied. The pages of *the TES* and the press in general bear testament to that fact, especially in recent months.

Talk to those involved - the teachers, advisers, inspectorate, i.e.a. officials and others. All testify that something needs to be done to provide help both for the content and status of education and salaries. Few enjoy the methods being employed at present supposedly to reach the end.

But there is hope and a desire to improve. There is drive and energy which should surely be directed to positive ends, not towards division and conflict.

There is a great opportunity which has been clearly and concisely presented by Mary Warnock. Surely we should grasp the fruitful branch she offered and not merely pluck the fruit and fling it in all directions to create greater and possibly even more wounding division and, in professional terms at the very least, failure.

There has quite possibly never been a better time to act. Who will begin?

ROGER FLACK
Headteacher
Nassington county primary school
Nassington
Peterborough

No selection

Sir - I did not have the benefit of hearing the full exposition of Baroness Warnock's views. However, I wish to oppose her proposal to designate a selected quota of "teaching schools" as described in your summary of the lecture (*TES*, March 22). Such an action would reintroduce a form of selective schooling.

In an area with one "teaching school" among others, there would be only one school worth attending as a pupil or as a teacher. Pupils would benefit from extensive innovation and evaluation; teacher tutors would be revitalized by the time awarded for reflection.

As a student for a teaching qualification, I found teaching practice in a variety of schools to be the most valuable element of my course. As a teacher I am refreshed by the exchange of views with teachers in training. I believe that the responsibility for training should be shared among all to the benefit of all.

A D BYRNE
Uckfield School
East Sussex

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FEATURES

four other defendants in court last week. Although expected prison sentences. It was, she said, "most extraordinarily encouraging" experience. The magistrate listened carefully and sympathetically to their defences. "He told us that we defended ourselves superbly, that he was aware that our actions were peaceful, intentional and well organized but nevertheless broke the law of the land and then he gave absolute discharge. One will almost certainly back.

TALKBACK

No time to examine

VALERIE MARSHALL

As a teacher at the "sharp end" of the proposed joint GCE O level and CSE examinations, I read the 1986 English Syllabus B of the Northern Examining Association with growing trepidation and disbelief.

I quote section C, "Instructions for making assessments", page 7: "In assessing candidates, the centre must ensure that comparable standards are observed between the different streams, sets or classes from which candidates are entered for assessment." The palpable impossibility of such a demand is immediately obvious to those of us who have struggled to do just that with 140 mode 3 CSE candidates over a number of years. The variety of teaching methods, all of equal merit, within the staff of a large English department invalidates any attempt to comply with section C.

Teachers are asked, when assessing candidates, to bear in mind grade-related criteria - the standard, variety and consistency of the work. They are also asked to take into account reading ability, length of assignments, relevance of response and ability to express themselves. To come to an accurate judgement on these criteria is difficult with one candidate; to do this with a large number of candidates and then to place them in academic relation to each other and then to candidates from other schools leaves much room for inaccuracy.

The moderation of candidates at the first stage must always be with the class teacher who, with the best of motives, finds it difficult to comply with the exhaustive list of criteria for assessment. Each school can adopt its own method of assessment but the board demands "a description of the procedure adopted by the centre to be sent with the assignments in May" (section 11.1.1).

Teachers are asked to send to the board a careful selection of pupils work to reflect the grade requested (section 11.1.2). The teacher must choose a variety of work showing the candidate's ability. This must include pieces of work which were done unaided in class.

The work must also be chosen to demonstrate the candidate's development over the five terms of the course, and it must include work which shows careful study, work which shows accuracy and work which shows originality. This, again, is not an exhaustive list of the pupils' work which has to be chosen and sent to the board.

After having overcome the difficulties of assessing and moderating, the teachers must also compile a number-

ed list of all assignments set, complete with the date. They must make comments on the submitted work, stating the candidate's amount and type of preparation; the time it took; whether dictionaries were used; which parts of the work were done at home and which at school; and if the work was completed unaided. This is by no means an exhaustive list of what the teacher is required to comment upon.

The amount of teacher-time required to comply with the demands and to keep the relevant records is not available during the normal day-to-day working of a school. The time required to assess, moderate and compile work and comments is disproportionate to the time available at the end of the course.

If, after much time and trouble, the candidate is awarded a U grade this indicates "that the work of the candidate is such that he or she should not have been entered for the examination" (section 8(b) (iv)). The wording of this paragraph is particularly offensive to teachers who all have the best interests of their candidates' examination chances at heart.

Attendance at "agreement trials" is understandably compulsory, but also: "The centre will be expected to provide from among their participating teachers persons willing, in principle, to undertake the duties of group chairman, group secretary, inter-school assessor or review panel member".

The onus for providing the range of examination organizers and markers has been moved ominously from the board to the schools.

We need to look again at the motives for introducing joint GCE O level and CSE examinations and check their credibility. We need to think about the subjective nature of the class-teacher's original assessment. We must not devalue these examinations for future generations and we must be realistic about the amount of time the class teacher can give to the examiner's role.

Valerie Marshall is deputy head of English at the John Warner School, Hoddeston, Herts.

Pick of the courses

ALASDAIR DONALDSON

Christine Jordan (Talkback, March 15) will not be alone in finding the English GCSE proposals from the Southern Examining Group depressingly familiar and irrelevant. However, they were the last of the four to be sent to schools for comment, and if the experience of the other three groups is anything to go by, English teachers' reaction to the multiple choice and other discredited elements of English examining will be almost uniformly

hostile. As a result, London/East Anglia will join the other two groups in offering an option of 100 per cent course work in English and English Literature. National criteria will also confirm its wisdom in having developed separate certification of oral English.

Heads of English should insist that: a. writing in English is assessed primarily or entirely by course work; b. oral work is separately graded for a full certificate; c. English Literature rewards extra reading and poetry study in addition to the study of set books - a better preparation for A level.

Probably the best package available is Northern Examining Association's English Syllabus B (based on JMB's O level Alternative D, a 100 per cent course work examination of 20 years' standing), with separate oral; and London/East Anglia English Literature, examined either entirely by course work or with 50 per cent as a final examination of unseen prose and poetry. The Midland group also has attractive features, notably its "plain texts" and course work options.

The JMB has until now enjoyed a virtual monopoly on English course work with its O level Alternative D, which has spread over most of the country in recent years. It seems likely that their proposed abolition of the candidate entry fee would result in even more centres taking NEA English Syllabus B. It would also remove the argument some local education authorities are using to prohibit schools, on financial grounds, from taking exams from "new" boards.

The message to Southern group should be clear: develop course work options in English or risk going out of business when schools have a free choice of syllabuses for English GCSE - which, as Joint Examinations, are mostly available for 1986 (the current four-year year).

English Departments wishing further details should request them from: Joint Moderation Board, Manchester M15 6EU; or English Subject Officer, University of London School Examinations Council, Stewart House, 32 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DN.

Dr Alasdair Donaldson is head of English at Cox Green Comprehensive, Maidenhead and a former member of the Joint English Subject Committee of the London/East Anglian Group.

TALKBACK

Over the next few weeks space will be devoted on TALKBACK to readers' comments on the new GCSE subject criteria (see page 12 and last week's TES). Contributions (no more than 700 words) should be addressed to:

TALKBACK,
The TES,
Priory House,
London EC1M 4BX.

Deprived by sex

ROSEMARY GRANT



It is heartening to read the equal opportunity statements which now accompany many advertisements for teaching posts. Manchester City Council, for instance, says that it "positively welcomes applications from men and women, regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, disability, age, sexuality or responsibility for dependants" (TES, March 15). But this commitment is not necessarily being translated into real changes at classroom level.

As a classroom teacher of some years' experience, I found it increasingly hard to explain, in terms of teaching performance or job commitment, the speed with which men teachers appeared to attain promotion when compared with their women counterparts. When I was seconded to study for an MEd degree, I carried out a questionnaire survey among 300 middle (deemed primary) teachers, receiving replies from about 85 per cent of them.

My findings supported those of other similar studies. Women were vastly under-represented in scale posts above scale 1 and 2 and this could not solely be attributed to such factors as length of experience, age or other

easily quantifiable factors. In addition, 75 per cent of the women questioned perceived themselves to be disadvantaged in career terms on account of their sex. Conversely, only 33 per cent of the men perceived that this might be so. (That such an overwhelming percentage of women expressed this view seems to me to be a real cause for concern.)

Many women told stories about the way disadvantage operates. It was said, for instance, that no women were interviewed for one particular deputy headship within the city and that afterwards the headteacher had said that he had intended to appoint a man. Such reports are hard to substantiate, but they are so prevalent that it is difficult to dismiss them.

In order to scotch such rumours, it seems to me essential that authorities should be more open and make available to any interested party information about the number of applicants for posts and the characteristics of those selected for interview.

They should also compile statistics as to the number of women in higher scale posts in the different levels of education from year to year so that comparisons can be made easily. Each authority should also draw up a policy document on equal promotion opportunities and headteachers and school governors should be advised of the need to comply strictly with it.

In-service courses should be designed to encourage women teachers to apply for promoted posts. Many as I found as a result of my survey - have the inclination, but feel isolated from like-minded colleagues, and are perhaps not always aware of the best ways of achieving their goals.

It is not enough for authorities to engage in the rhetoric of equal career opportunities. If the 75 per cent of women in my survey are to be persuaded that they have the same chance of attaining promoted posts as equally qualified men, actions, not words, are required.

Rosemary Grant is a teacher in a Sheffield primary school.

Gay pupils

MARK LILLEY

We are the only minority brought up by our natural enemies: parents and teachers. We are the people that they warned us against.

The consequences of this are not sufficiently realized. First, many of those parents (about 10 per cent) now most vociferous in demanding that education stay heterosexual and continue to deny the aspirations of gay pupils, will find that they have victimized their own offspring. Second, gay pupils are at a special disadvantage compared to, say, ethnic minorities.

In the latter case, the negative cultural and educational experiences suffered in the outside world are offset by the loving support of the family. But for many homosexual pupils, there is all too frequently a difficulty in discussing sex with parents, and the resulting bottling up of feelings is acutely distressing.

Of all the institutions of the state, schools are the most cruel enforcers of heterosexual norms. Christianity still represents the underlying ethos in most schools. All sex education programmes are made for heterosexuals (I telephoned every broadcasting authority last year, and not one of them had made a single programme for gay pupils).

Pupils receive advice not only from their peers, but - as we saw from an article in the TES last year - also from some teachers. When schools arrange discos, they are always for heterosexuals; the legal age of consent for men of 21 is irrelevant as a defence here, not only because dancing is not the same as sex, but because schools frequently allow under-16s to dance in heterosexual pairs.

Most school libraries will only stock romances and adventures with heterosexual heroes and heroines - despite the increasing volume of gay fiction. They will, nevertheless, have reference books of astonishing ignorance and prejudice, all the way from the works of Miriam Stoppani (she diagnoses homosexuality in patronizing asides) to the horrendous *Paladin Dictionary of Symbols*, which sug-

gests, as late as 1970, "specialist psychological treatment".

It has long been recognized that society oppresses particular groups through rendering them invisible and/or ridiculous. We now agree that black pupils need to see black adults in positions of respect and authority within the educational system in order to sustain their sense of personal esteem. The same argument has been applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to women.

With both these groups, serious efforts have been made to improve the situation. But nothing at all has been done in the schools for Britain's largest minority, which will counteract the homophobia of the society outside the school, especially visible in the media.

There are still those - a thankfully diminishing band of traditional moralists - who argue that the sort of changes I envisage, the conferring of legal and social equality on gay people, will "encourage homosexuality". Of course, this objection is based on the idea that homosexuality is superior, which is precisely the attitude at the root of the prejudice. But second, it should be obvious that if the massive weight of pro-heterosexual propaganda in our culture cannot change the sexual feelings of a gay person, how on earth could the reverse possibly be the case?

Some teachers remain to be convinced that the problem is a *system* one. While giving a sort of waffle, intellectual assent to the proposition of intellectual rights, they cannot feel that much harm is done. Let me assure them, and I can say this from personal experience and knowledge of scores of gay pupils, that going through the school system as a gay person is a terrible ordeal. One full of loneliness, anxiety and isolation, and one suffered by a tenth of the population. The usual fears and worries of adolescence are magnified 10-fold: outside there are four youth clubs in London, there are no social provisions for gay teenagers of any kind. Nor can they ever join ordinary parties, revolving as these do around heterosexuality.

Every teacher should be aware that any school where gay staff and pupils are not made to feel relaxed and wholly open about their sexual orientation, is one which is imposing a daily misery and injustice.

Mark Lilley is a freelance lecturer working in adult education, for the Open University and the University of London.

Review

Secrecy: the future

Sir Patrick Nairne, a former Permanent Secretary, argues that Clive Ponting and his colleagues have not yet faced up to the real problems towards which their own arguments point

The Price of Freedom. By Judith Cook. New English Library £8.95. 0 450 06126 4. The Right to Know. By Clive Ponting. Sphere Books £2.50. 0 7221 6944 2.

"1984 may well go down in history as the Year of the Leak." Thus Judith Cook begins the Introduction to her wide-ranging book on freedom of information. She might well regard Clive Ponting as the Man of the Year, though his name finds no place in her pages. His "instant" paperback promotes the same cause. Its final words are these:

"If my own prosecution and trial contribute in some way to the repeal of Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act and the eventual passage of a genuine Freedom of Information Act, then the experience will have been worthwhile."

But the two books are very different in scope and character. Judith Cook, with the lively skill of an experienced journalist, mounts a sustained barrage of devastating fire, using ammunition of remarkable variety, against what she labels "the British disease". Local education authorities and schools are among her targets. Clive Ponting, on the other hand, divides his book, in the orderly way of a senior Civil Servant, into three distinct parts: an exposé of the gradual discrediting of Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act; a detailed account of the Belgrano Affair and the Old Bailey trial; and some general thoughts about the future of official secrecy. Her book is a passionate tract for the times: his an apologia, reflecting the disenchantment of exceptional success turned sour.

What both books have in common, however, is not only their critical assault on the handling of information by governments, but also a disapproving failure to consider the central question to which their own arguments point. Why is it that the leading politicians of every party have consistently paid lip-service, in opposition, to freedom of information and, with equal consistency, have failed, in office, to act on their words?

An accusing finger points at the Civil Service; and, as a former Permanent Secretary, I readily accept that civil servants are disposed to be defensive and secretive. How could it be otherwise so long as they are required to sign a declaration, on entering the Civil Service, to record their understanding "that serious consequences may follow any breach" of the provisions of the catch-all Official Secrets Act? But I believe that David Owen was nearer the mark when he wrote in his book *Face the Future*: "It is unfortunate that Ministers are even more secretive than are Civil Servants and hostile to Parliament, even when over greater freedom of information a majority of MPs of all parties support radical change."

The words of the present Prime Minister, replying to the Freedom of Information Campaign and quoted by Clive Ponting, reinforce that judgement: "Under our Constitution, Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the work of their departments, and that includes the provision of information... Ministers' accountability to Parliament would be reduced and Parliament itself diminished... In our view the right place for Ministers to answer for their decisions in the essentially 'political' area of information is in Parliament."

The Prime Minister touched on the core of the problem within government. Ministers have to put their accountability to Parliament first. So far from feeling protected by what Clive Ponting calls "closed government", they feel constantly exposed to challenge and questioning by MPs as well as to relentless scrutiny by the media. Civil Servants are concerned to support them. There is no incentive to add what might be another rod for the Government's back, particularly when that would require the resolution of the complex range of issues presented by the repeal of the Official Secrets Act.

The way forward may, perhaps, lie in a full examination of all the issues by a Select Committee of Parliament, covering important questions which Judith Cook and Clive Ponting have virtually ignored. What should be the scope of a



Freedom of Information Bill, which would avoid the deficiencies of previous Bills? As a convert to the case for legislation, I was impressed by the words of Lord Scarman in the Granada Guildhall Lecture of November 27 last year:

"Legislation is needed to provide a sound basis of principle, to safeguard the conflicting interests of confidentiality, privacy, and the accessibility of information, and to ensure that the rights of privacy, confidence, and information are as powerfully protected by the judicial system as are liberty of the person and freedom of speech."

What can we learn from the experience of the Commonwealth Countries of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand? How difficult in practice will it be to define the exemption areas acknowledged by the Freedom of Information Campaign? How heavy the bureaucratic costs (when the Public Service is being further reduced)? How should a new and comprehensive regime be policed? Can one square Judith Cook's demand for "the British equivalent of the 'Whistle-blowers' Act" with Clive Ponting's acceptance of "the need for disciplinary measures to deal with breaches of trust"?

The object of the current Campaign - to which Parliament could contribute if it chose - must be to find answers to those questions and prepare the

ground for an Act acceptable to both Westminster and Whitehall. But, as Judith Cook must recognize, an Act on the Statute Book, while giving the public a right to ask and to know, cannot ensure that governments will volunteer to disclose and publish more information than they do today. And, as Clive Ponting may be willing to acknowledge, he could still have had to face the crisis of conscience he describes if we had such an Act with the exemptions envisaged by the Freedom of Information Campaign.

These are not arguments for the status quo. On the contrary, they are further arguments for the realistic and careful drafting of a Freedom of Information Bill which will replace the Official Secrets Acts. That is what the campaigners must achieve. They cannot have counted on such a powerful Campaign document as *The Price of Freedom* nor have hoped for such a bonus as the trial and acquittal of Clive Ponting.

Sir Patrick Nairne, Master of St. Catherine's College, Oxford, was Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Security from 1975-1981, following service in the Admiralty, the Ministry of Defence, and the Cabinet Office. He is now a member of the advisory panel of the Freedom of Information Campaign.

Out of touch

MARY CHUCK

It is not often that the opportunity arises in the uneasy course of a national dispute for a respected social commentator to influence events. I am sure that I am not alone in my disappointment that Mary Warnock's use of the forum of the Richard Dimbleby Lecture on March 22 seemed so out of touch with the teaching profession and its present problems.

I think that many teachers would like to take up the theme of a greater professionalism among teachers - a greater self-respect, generating greater public respect. Many are asking how this could be brought about. Perhaps a General Teachers' Council might contribute, but the present dispute in Scotland, where they have such a council, can hardly encourage teachers in England to believe that it will help their cause.

Mary Warnock argues that a self-regulatory body, like the General Medical Council, gives people greater confidence in professionals. I imagine that for most parents it would arouse greater suspicion. Few doctors are "struck off" for inadequacy, but the relationship between parent, child and teacher is fundamentally different to that traditionally established between patient and doctor. It is, at its

best, a partnership in which the development of the child is seen as a whole. It is a continuing day to day relationship, not a one-off consultation.

The Dimbleby lecture raised fundamental issues with regard to the professionalism of teachers and the purpose of education. Many of us involved with young people today would reject that concept which regards education as a way of escaping from one's circumstances. We do not put the pupils' background out of our mind because we no longer see a different background to our own as necessarily inferior.

The dignity of the individual within their own environment is an aim which contrasts with that of escaping and bettering oneself. It is an aim through which all children should be encouraged to develop their own strength and to know their own weakness.

It is not essential that we move away from a system through which a few are given success (and perhaps alienation from their background) and the rest are left to see themselves as failures? Surely this is a part of the 1981 Education Act? Do we not want to educate handicapped pupils with their



peer group so that they can establish their own dignity through their own strengths?

The professionalism of teachers is indeed vital. Teachers must have confidence to work easily with other professionals. The social worker, the doctor, the vicar and the politician. The teacher must be aware of all the factors that shake up the community of which the child is, and will continue to be, a part. The skills to understand the community and how it functions are essential to everyone. Now, because the media bring public morality into our living rooms, we can no longer close our eyes and absolve ourselves of responsibility by saying that we are only concerned with private morality.

Even though parents may not always like it, their children are not going up in a world which can ignore political issues.

Mary Warnock is right that teachers must establish a clear view of their own professionalism, but she does them a grave disservice to imply that it is the absence of professionalism which leads teachers to strike in the present dispute. We have elected leaders who seem determined to set their own pride before the resolution of problems. Surely in such a tirade against teachers we might have expected something a little more constructive than to hear that it is not all Sir Keith's fault. What progress for professionalism when those who should be its most informed allies and supporters stop and blame the traditional ivory tower?

Mary Chuck is Deputy Head of Piddlegate County High School, Warrington.

TV drama: an obituary?

By Michael Church

Television Drama: an Introduction.

By David Self. Macmillan £14. 333 36611 5. £4.95. 36612 3.

The Royal Shakespeare Company would need to play in all its theatres for four years to reach the sort of audience achieved by one single broadcast of the BBC television Shakespeare. Set aside the splendour of the BBC's television Shakespeare, set aside the quality of the viewers' attention (drinking, snoring, yawning, making cups of tea) and you are left with a striking truth: for good or ill, drama now comes primarily out of a tube.

David Self's intention is to examine the development of his subject from its theatrical origins to its present state, dealing with both the industrial realities and the theoretical controversies raging at stratospheric - some would say irrelevant - levels above. In contrast to many recent attempts, Self's readable book is free of any constricting ideological stance, and it carries no whiff of semiotic jargon. Descriptive rather than prescriptive, it nevertheless offers both analysis and judgement, and its treatment of the major companies' policies seems over-optimistic.

this may be due, in part at least, to the fact that the phillistines have gained much ground since his manuscript went to the printers.

Television Drama is not, he says, "intended as an obituary". One fervently hopes not, but it is impossible to read about the aims and achievements of Sidney Newman (creator of *Armchair Theatre* and *The Wednesday Play*), or of the splendid *Play for Today* series, without feeling that the party may be over. Self quotes a bigwig of the BBC who keeps editorial control of co-productions, but now that the Corporation is permeated by meretricious, ratings-chasing principles that affirmation rings remarkably hollow. "Co-financing," Self cheerfully remarks, "does point a way ahead". Too true, alas: The Beeb may not be putting out *Lace 2*, but they would surely have liked to have done so.

The trouble with single plays is that they don't get the sort of ratings serials do, and they cost so much more to make (nothing can be re-used). Most television play producers are even now wedded to the notion that their work represents the sharp end of radical creativity, and that each production is *de facto* an "act" from which



"The Boys from the Blackstuff" grew out of a single play.

some oak may later grow. (*The Boys from the Blackstuff* was originally a single play.) This does not endear them to the moguls, whose memories of tussles with the good taste brigade (*Brimstone and Treacle*) or with the Home Office (*Strain*) remain perpetually green. Lists of famous writers who fledge via television plays no longer cut much ice, nor does the desperate financial plight of serious live theatre.

One argument: running through the book concerns the need for more, and better, criticism. Self's view of newspaper critics, erring on the negative side, is a little better in the Sunday Times

long been offset by conscientious folk like the *Daily Mail's* Herbert Kretzmer) but editorial policies towards television reviewing are in the main ill-considered and perfunctory. Several generations of powerful and self-important critics have had a near-fatal effect on fine art, "serious" music and fiction, but there is a sense in which these forms are all "tired" and in need of a fallow period. Drama on film - or tape - is an art-form still in its robust infancy, and would only be strengthened by critical debate.

The second half of Self's book consists of an exhaustive but entertaining journey behind the scenes. The ramshackle and labyrinthine process by which plays are born is described step by step, while chance governing the outcome quite as much as conscious policy. The permanent tension between writer and producer (and director, and designer, and actor, and cameraman, and editor) is subjected to analysis, and a moral drawn: as a result of close reading and rewriting, most television scripts are far better written, and far better constructed, than most novels. "It is just that much harder to get away with self-indulgence, flabby prose, padding, inconsistency, implausibility." Absolutely right, even if literary London would prefer to disagree.

Did you know that most scenes which take place on gravel actually take place on cork chips, and that the gravel sound-effects are added later? Or that bottles broken on the heads of expensive actors are often made of wax? The book's researched information is an additional commendation for general readers. For those interested in the analysis of genres, or in making a career in the game, or indeed for anyone doing "media studies" (deadly phrase), this book is, unless something even better comes along, essential reading.

BOOKS IN CLASS

Grammar gems and faux amis

Collins Gem French Grammar. Collins £1.50. 0 00 459334 0. The French Schoolmaster. Richard Drew Publishing £1.00. 0 8627 029 2. French Key Words. By Xavier-Yves Escande. Olenander Press £2.95. 0 906672 24 4. £8.95. 23 6. Faux Amis and Key Words. By Philip Thody and Howard Evans. Athlone Press £4.95. 0 485 12043 7. £16. 11243 4.

Exam entries are now in and the business of revision can start in earnest. The Collins Gem Grammar (like its companion dictionary and verb tables), and The French Schoolmaster, are small enough to be concealed and furiously consulted during the ordeal, though I am sure the publishers would disclaim any responsibility for misuse. The risks you take are your own.

Neither the Collins Grammar nor the Schoolmaster will, in any case, be of much help to the candidate who is unsure of the difference between a preposition and a pronoun, since each is based on a rigidly traditional approach to grammar. The Collins layout is more orthodox, working systematically through the tenses of the regular and irregular verbs, then nouns, articles, adjectives, and so on. The small type, density of material and system of cross-referencing offer a daunting prospect for the revisor: despite miniaturization, there just seems too much here to fit in the average 16-year-old skull. The language doesn't help either: *du* and *des*, *au* and *aux*, we are told, need special attention since they "are not visually the sum of their parts"; the same applies to this rock-hard gem.

The Schoolmaster, arranged alphabetically, is more appealing. It gives explanations and the reader has to refer to the reader from *par* to "possessive adjectives" without having to go through the index. The pronunciation section in both books is probably worse than useless and each manages to get *celui-ci* ("the latter") and *celui-là* ("the former") back to front. For quick revision on the bus,

take the *Schoolmaster*, either book will do for your celebratory bonfire when the results come through.

French Key Words is for anyone who enjoys learning vocabulary lists by heart. Divided into units of 20 words each, its 2000-word vocabulary is arranged by frequency of occurrence, starting with *le* and *la* and ending with *funer* and *ardent*. The principle is fine: you acquire the commonest words first and from there build up a fundamental, all-purpose vocabulary. In practice, force-feeding vocabulary out of context (at a rate of, say, 20 a day for 100 days) is strictly for masochists.

What a relief to turn to Thody and Evans, whose French appears to have some connection with the real world and whose key words have been knocked around a bit, instead of coming straight out of a computer. Admittedly, their book is not for the O level candidate, but more advanced students will find it a mine of valuable information, presented with a touch of eccentricity as the authors range from one topic to another. Some entries, like *bachelier*, are straight-forward fact, concisely presented; more often, they invite you on a delightful journey, from meaning, mistake and misapprehension, to literary or cultural reference and anecdote — as with *laissez-faire*, where we start with economics and end with Philip Thody boarding a bus at the Palais Royal, or *mécanisme* which moves in under eight lines from Racine and Proust to a threadbare tie.

In an attempt to control this obsessive free-wheeling, they have divided the book into 10 sections under different headings. Some attributions are arbitrary (why is *gas-ol* under Economics and *piérote* under Travel and Health?). But such anomalies add to the charm of a work designed for dipping in, rather than for reference. Where some good advice concerning a lavatory in Paris leads to a discussion of Robespierre, telephones and a suggested translation for "a token presence". Diverting, yes, but not a diversion: this is the real language, the only kind that makes sense of swotting over grammar grammars and classified word-lists.

Robin Buss

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

The Caves of Klydor. By Douglas Hill. Gollancz £5.50. 0 575 03413 0. Starfighters. Sunburst. By Nicholas Fisk. Blackie £5.95 each. 0 216 91691 7; 91692 5 respectively.

"The creature's terrible mouth gaped wide again. Its body twitched, stirring the water, as it prepared for another surging attack."

But that attack was never made. From somewhere on the rocky slopes above the raft, a narrow beam of dazzling light lanced through the air. The monster's head seemed to erupt in a fountain of purplish blood, as the laser beam sliced lethally into its flesh.

Yes, it is unmistakably Douglas Hill, our leading composer of space opera, with the middle volume of the trilogy which began with *Exiles of ColSec*, and will conclude with *ColSec: Rebellion* later this year.

A group of young Earthlings have been sentenced to exile on the planet Klydor, to found a colony which Earth will exploit. Hill's new hero-figure, Cord, though exceptionally well-muscled, is not possessed of superhuman powers, unlike Hill's previous heroes. Cord is also a reluctant leader, and allows the group, which includes two girls, to share decision-making. However, there is still room for Cord to rescue his girl from the clutches of a giant worm. "Nausea rose within him at the slippery, ice-cold feel of the creature."

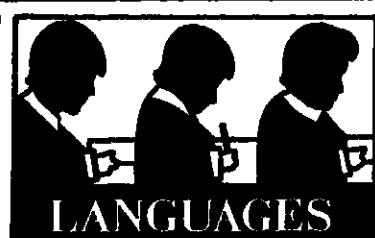
After the death of evil gang-leader Lamprey, conveniently dispatched by aliens after Cord had spared his life, the youngsters meet space explorer

Bren Lathan, he of the lethal laser beam. A deserter from ColSec, he is pursued by his elite defence force, the Crushers, shown here on the jacket in goldfish-bowl helmets, though Klydor's atmosphere is Earth-like. With Douglas Hill, ugly is as ugly does: the Crushers have eyes like "wild, vicious predators" . . . as if these five men had lost their souls in a lifetime of cruelty and violence. Cord refuses to kill them in cold blood; instead he shoots at the tunnel roof — and survives while the Crushers are buried in the cave. I'm looking forward to finding out whether Cord will liberate Klydor and the other colonies from "the monstrous Organization that held all Earth in its crushing grip" without compromising his values.

Nicholas Fisk's five-book series for younger readers, *Starfighters*, was first published in Knight Paperbacks several years ago, and is now republished in hardback. There is a strong element of wish-fulfilment about the series. In this, the 21st century Earth resources are depleted, and four children whose parents are outer space colonists, build their own spaceship with parts from junkyards. Accompanied by an indispensable but rather erratic computer, they blast off in *Starfighter*, with gender and ethnic origin established and balanced: Irish girl, West Indian boy, White boy and Chinese girl, with personalities and talents not quite according to stereotype.

Soon, light-years away (all this is pretty improbable) their parents' voices come through on the radio — but the evil Octopus Emperor has designs upon them. He bodys their brains. Three more books follow to show the Emperor's downfall and the enrichment of the new planet. All through the children's bright ideas. It is a pity about the price. You can get four paperbacks in the series for the price of one hardback.

Jessica Yates



The Poets of the Cafe des Westens. Edited with an introduction by Patrick Bridgwater. Leicester German Poets, Leicester University Press £3.95. 0 7185 1400 9.

Just as in the cafes of the Boulevard St Michel in the Paris of 1910, so in the cafes of prewar Berlin the bright young things of the new German Expressionist movement in poetry gathered to discuss their work. The upstanding *Bürger* of Berlin were threatened and appalled by the new Bohemianism but the young poets were fascinated by the growth of the "Weltstadt", the "world city" pulsating with life, reflecting all the tensions and contradictions of the age.

Español

YVA! Curso de español. By Ulla Hakansson, Joaquín Masoller and Gunilla Sandström. Adapted by Hedley Sharples. Oxford University Press. Student's book £2.95. 0 19 912054 4. Activity book £1.75. 912055 2. Cassette £7.00 + V.A.T. 840336 4. Tape £9.00 + V.A.T. 850335 6.

This package, adapted from a Swedish-Spanish produced course by Hedley Sharples, a major figure in the British Spanish-teaching world, consists of two paperback books and a cassette (or reel). It is the first half of a language course to O level standard: part two, we are informed, will appear the day after mañana. The two books, styled Student's and Activity, are interlinked. With teacher's notes as it were concealed in the text of either

Pronto

A Concise Spanish Grammar. By R N de M Leathes. John Murray £2.95. 0 7195 3992 7.

A Concise Spanish Grammar is a compact reference work for adult learners, travellers and crash-course students. It comprehensively categorises a wide range of Spanish grammar, idiom and usage, with plenty of examples.

As with all thematic grammars, an understanding of grammatical terminology is required *a priori* to locate a particular point. Section titles include: "Diminutive, augmentative and pejorative suffixes" and "Linkage of indefinite adjectives and pronouns to an infinitive by *que*". Nevertheless, the content is impressive. Not many grammars deal with punctuation, fractions and percentages, or translation of English auxiliaries on their own. One section even shows how Spanish compound surnames are handed down from parents to children. Certainly a useful reference book for the teacher, and with guidance, for the serious student.

Colectión *Juguete del Orde de Agua*. By Ariadne Schmidt. £1.50. 0 85950 195 7. *La Herencia*. By R. Hernandez. Blackie. £1.75. 197 3. *El Europeo*. By Alice Mohrman Kosnik. £1.50. 194 6. *Un Verano Madrileño*. By Alice Mohrman Kosnik. £1.75. 196 5. Stanley Thorpe.

The rationale behind the foreign language reader demands sufficiently enthralling content to guarantee continued interest from the pupil despite its presentation in an alien form: *deleitar enseñando*. Readers must therefore be judged on two counts: is the content likely to prove irresistible, and does the language vehicle provide worthwhile practice?

Although the four titles of the *Colectión Juguete* are written by different authors, they are similar in style, format and language. Their presentation promises an exciting and interesting background information

Along with new periodicals such as *Sturm und Aktion*, the cafes provided a focus for the new poetry and for a new concept: "Literature". The most frequent venue for the poets was the Cafe des Westens on the Kurfürstendamm.

In this anthology, the work of four of its better known *habitués* is presented. The four, Ernst Blum, Georg Heym, Jakob van Hoddis and Alfred Lichtenstein, in different ways represent the development of the German Expressionist movement in poetry. In accepting the maxim that Expressionist poetry derives from a need to create individual styles, care has been taken to offer a concise account of each of the four poets as individuals within a movement rather than as an undifferentiated group. Their work is also related to that of other European poets and philosophers such as Hölderlin, Baudelaire, Heine and Schopenhauer. Since the individual accounts are preceded by a more general introduction to the literary scene in Berlin in the early 1900s, the reader develops a clear understanding of each poet's place within the movement.

The anthology also includes a con-

cise set of notes on many individual poems. This provides an excellent study aid by contextualizing individual details as well as by translating the many instances of Berlin dialect.

Since Heym and Lichtenstein are regarded as the major figures, significantly more of their work is given in the anthology. The difference between the tragic, romantic character of Heym and the ironical anti-romanticism of Lichtenstein is apparent in their very different styles. Likened to Baudelaire, Heym's work reveals a view of life as a wasteland or prison. In contrast, Lichtenstein is self-mocking and ironical.

Of the remaining two poets, Ernst Blum is much underrated. Despite having been hailed as "the greatest German poet" during his own lifetime, his work has since been much overshadowed by that of his contemporaries. The work of Jakob van Hoddis is best seen in the apocalyptic "Weltende". Its juxtaposition of ideas with originality of style helped create new and original forms of Expressionist verse which were to develop in subsequent years.

Eleanor Caldwell

publishers claim its suitability for adult beginners and direct it at school classes from age 13 upwards, but I am not sure that school *ab initio* beginners would be able to cope with the structures and vocabulary which will be thrown at them in the early chapters, which demand skilful exposition — or maturity on the part of the learner.

The taped material is a disappointment, consisting of odd words, place names and exercises recited by bored and joyless-sounding native Spanish voices. But the contexts of the teaching material and exercises, which are both peninsular and Latin American, with here and there, little touches of regional languages and dialects are well chosen and illustrated. There is good material for armchair travellers to Spain (and Spanish-America), and the human protagonists seem real — the rustics are not Utopian, as in so many traditional Spanish course books.

Hugh Whittaker

Teachers could certainly exploit the wide range of material offered for more for straight comprehension work, but with time the most precious resource for our profession is a lively and interesting text. The Spanish for Real has no such qualities. It is a dull, unimaginative, and uninspired work which would have widened its appeal considerably.

David J Sumpter

IN BRIEF

Language support material may take a variety of forms, and my book entitled Spanish Puzzles (Longman 8p. 9.92 20270 1) would seem worthy of inspection. Terry Hawkin's offering, however, is disappointing. Stimulus pages offer numbers in various forms (prices, measurements, weights, colour contents), and the so-called *Puzzle* are an optimistic and misleading euphemism for mathematical exercises. A typical question asks for the price of 250 grams of *carne de vaca* when the butcher's shop display quotes 780 pesetas *al kilo* (sic).

The title also implies some Spanish practice, but although a wide and interesting vocabulary is used, its comprehension is unnecessary for the required calculations. The practical relevance or value of "Calcula la diferencia entre el precio de la *fajita* y el precio de la *carne*" still escapes me.

An interesting trilogy from Longman is the French, German and Spanish versions of a book designed to support oral work in general and practice role-play in particular.

Sometimes the jump from stimulus to activity may be too demanding for the first-examination target range. The set task on an article entitled *Cómo ir a Mallorca*, which promotes the role of travel agents, is to make up a dialogue between a student and a travel agent, without the former providing and real language support for the latter. Of the six sections, the longest, *School*, is substantially different in style and associated work. It contains documentation relevant to an exchange situation, plus an entire Spanish school magazine. An interesting section, although somewhat at odds with the rest of the book.

Dorothy Wordsworth. By Robert Gittings and Jo Manton. Oxford University Press £12.50. 0 19 618519 7.

William Wordsworth: The Pedlar, Tintern Abbey, The Two-Part Prelude. Edited by Jonathan Wordsworth. Cambridge University Press £7.95. 0 521 26526 6. £2.95. 31937 4.

William Wordsworth: The Ruined Cottage, The Brothers, Michael. Cambridge University Press £7.95. 0 521 26525 8. £2.95. 31936 6.

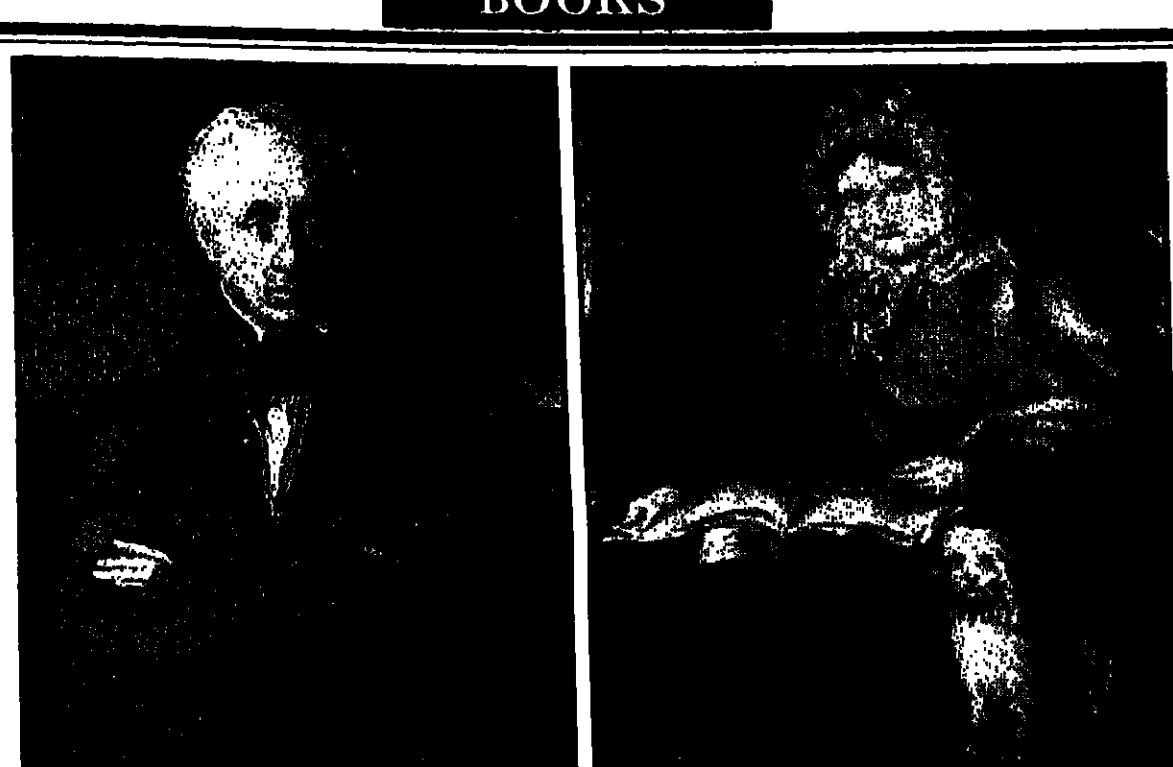
Letters of Dorothy Wordsworth: A Selection. Edited by Alan G Hill. Oxford University Press £9.95. 0 19 618539 1.

To those who tend to think of literary history as an exhausted genre, its ground laid bare by nearly a century of eager and exhaustive archaology, it will come as a salutary surprise to realize how much biographical and textual material remains to be assimilated, even in such a well-ploughed field as the Romantics. We still await a complete edition of Coleridge's notebooks; the fabulous Flaxman collection of letters and documents relating to Shelley is still an unknown quantity; and here, in one of two paperbacks dealing with the narrative poems of 1797-1800 and impeccably presented by Jonathan Wordsworth, general readers and students have their first glimpse of the "Two-Part" Prelude, an astonishing first version, written in 1799, of the epic poem on which Wordsworth was to continue working throughout his life. Its thousand-odd lines concentrate on those haunting childhood experiences and images which he regarded as revelations of deep truth. In the 1805 version, these "spots of time" are surrounded by more discursive autobiography, and by 1850 they have been altered with orthodox Christianity but here their intensity is communicated at full force.

Yet the sublime irony is that for a man who revealed so much of his inner self in his verse, he remains an untouchable personality. It is impossible, for instance, to reconstruct the dynamics of his exceptionally close relationship with his younger sister Dorothy, least of all during the crucial period in 1796-67 when they set up house together in Dorset. Wordsworth, close to a mental collapse brought on by the ideological conflicts of the time, claimed Dorothy to be a healing influence and guiding light.

In their sane and balanced new biography of Dorothy, Robert Gittings and Jo Manton are cautious about speculating on the implications of such lines. They rightly pooh-pooh the more fanciful (though still sadly current) ideas about incest, and put Dorothy's final years of madness firmly down to a clinically diagnosable form of senile dementia, rather than any more Romantic nemesis of sexual repression.

Dorothy emerges as a woman very much a product of her culture, deeply compassionate, highly strung, receptive to the innocence of children and



A poet's guiding light

By Rupert Christiansen

She, in the midst of all, preserved me still.
A poet, made me seek beneath that name
My office upon earth, and nowhere else . . .

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Dorothy emerges as a woman very much a product of her culture, deeply compassionate, highly strung, receptive to the innocence of children and

the beauties of nature: one might say that she had the "sensitivity" that Jane Austen analyses in Marianne Dashwood. She had no views on politics independent of her brother's and no ambition to publicize her literary efforts. "My only merits," she wrote, "are my devotedness to those I love and I hope a charity towards all mankind."

Her self-sacrifice was occasional and Wordsworth took full advantage of it for his material needs. Contemporaries were sceptical of the benefits of this, and it was thought that his creativity suffered from the boisterous female adulation steadily provided by Dorothy and later his wife Mary — but for Dorothy there was no question of anything except ministering to William's genius. She cooked, sewed, cleaned, copied his poems, rubbed his aching shoulders, and stood by him at

every turn. Less materially, she also seems to have given concrete detail to his transcendental vision: Coleridge noted sharply "her eye watchful in minutest observation of nature — and her taste a perfect electrometer — it bends, protrudes, and draws in at subtle beauties and most reconcile faults". But here, where one would like to know most, the evidence is lacking.

We do, however, have her famous journals, which Gittings and Manton dub "an unconscious masterpiece". These are full of the "minutest observations", mixing Romantic raptures with the laconic record of meals, washing sessions, visitors, and local events. (It is significant that her travel journals have a stilted, literary quality while her great poetry while she carried their shirts — but could they have said as much?)

Shopkeeper's list

The Diary of Thomas Turner 1754-1765. Edited by David Vaisey. Oxford University Press £17.50. 0 19 211782 3.

"Oh, what can be a greater pleasure than to be employed in no honest calling all day, and in the oven to unbend and relax one's thoughts by endeavouring to improve the mental of more noble part of man!" The diary kept by Thomas Turner, the shopkeeper at East Hoathly a few miles from Lewes in Sussex, has been known for more than a hundred years, but only now has it been published in form at all representative of the original manuscript. If it does not quite rival those diaries which set the long-obsolete Peppys and Kivert among the great English writers, it certainly has sufficient interest and fascination to make it the equal of those clerical journals of Woodford and Skinner.

Turner's assiduous involvement in the village would have put many a parson to shame. (Among its cast of

characters is the splendidly named Revd Chalice.) The diary shows how very much the shopkeeper was at the centre of life, and even acted as a sort of undertaker: almost everyone was in his debt, and his descriptions of them, mixed with lists of purchases and accounts, reveal a dry, anecdotal sense of the absurd. "We then went into the barn, in order for him to serve the warrant, which he refused to do without more assistance, though there was a two of us and the man was a-going to take us a man with the use of one arm only."

Turner himself would appear to have been less for much of the time. Parallel with references to his troubled marriage there is entry after entry which mournfully records a bad night. "I know almost the light of a bottle of wine will make me drunk." "Sure nothing is more despicable than to see what slaves many people make themselves to that most detestable poison called gin!" Painfully aware of his faults, he was an ardent enthusiast for

that 18th-century habit of reading sermons and tracts: "reading and study (might I be allowed the phrase) would in a manner be both meat and drink to me, were my circumstances a great deal, and if he does not have startling insights ("Shakespeare's Works, which I think extreme good of their kind"), his modesty, gull, enthusiasm and his grief at the death of his wife are some of the strands that make this the work of a real, contradictory figure, not that of an antiquary.

The Lisbon earthquake, Wilkes, the loss of Minorca, General Wolfe, and the death of George II are mentioned, but it is a mark of Turner's unobtrusive skill that, just as Woodford's fine four-pound crab took precedence over the Fall of the Bastille, one is far more interested by his bad back, toothache and torn shirt. The scene in which he chooses to cut into an old Cheviote robe for Mary Atkins is more vivid than any battle. And so to bed, drunk.

Christopher Hawtree

Medieval marriage

The Knight, the Lady and the Priest. By George Duby. Translated by B. Bray. Penguin £5.95.

The Trial of the City of Ladies. By Christine de Pisan. Translated by S. Lawson. Penguin £2.95.

When Christine de Pisan remarks, in a poem, that whoever pays homage to love is not an *divers* servant, it is no cliché. Although Georges Duby's study of medieval marriage ends some centuries before Christine's time, the picture it gives of women in

relation to men is one of servitude: to husband, to Church and to the imperatives of her supposedly corrupt nature. Between the 11th and the 12th centuries, he suggests, the rival authorities of Church and State reached a kind of accommodation, which lasted well beyond the medieval period. "But how much do we really know?" he asks. The conflict between the needs of noble families and the needs of view of sex and marriage is inevitably based on fragmentary evidence from partial sources.

We are bound, today, to perceive the attitudes of both religious and secular authorities partly in terms of a

fear of sexuality, and in particular of female sexuality. But the important thing, as Natalie Davis says in her introduction to Duby's book, is to see how women managed to exploit the options available to them. Christine's book is a fine example, and shows why her work is undergoing a late revival. Written in 1405, it submits to the dominant ideology outlined by Duby, while asserting the woman's right, at least, to her own point of view. Read together, these two well-translated books provide an insight into ways of life and thought that are not irrelevant to the history of post-medieval society.

Robin Buss

Unhappy record

For Sylvia: An Honest Account. By Valentine Ackland. Chatto and Windus £8.95. 0 7011 3941 2.

Sylvia Townsend Warner (1893-1978) was one of the greatest writers of the 20th century. She ranks with Katherine Mansfield, Virginia Woolf, Willa Cather and Eudora Welty, yet she is at present neglected when lists are made. I think extreme good of their kind") his modesty, gull, enthusiasm and his grief at the death of his wife are some of the strands that make this the work of a real, contradictory figure, not that of an antiquary.

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Christopher Hawtree

Swiss role

Anthology of Modern Swiss Literature. Edited and introduced by H. M. Waldson. Oswald Wolff £9.50.

Hans Morgenthau described his country as "wretchedly narrow and no market for books". It has, for a start, more languages than are usually required by a population of 6½ million and shares most of them with others

her brother (not much) as in what they reveal about ordinary rural life. At times, the style lends itself to parody, as in the account of the composition of the "Immortality" Ode:

A divine morning. At Breakfast William wrote part of an ode. Mr Oliff sent the dung and Wm went to work in the garden . . .

Elsewhere, as in her description of a raven's echoing call or some "restless and glittering" heathland, the precision of the evocation gives the lie to her own disclaimer that she had "no command of language, no power of expressing my ideas".

Alongside the self-effacement went what Gittings and Manton call "a genius for friendship", an ability to enter with "imaginative sympathy into the hearts of men and women alike". From her early days in Halifax, where she was farmed out after the death of her mother, to her last years of sanity as a beloved spinster aunt, whose services were constantly in demand, she gave of herself unstintingly. Her letters, as Alan G Hill's selection from his revised edition of the Wordsworth correspondence (another project still in progress) show, are full of unaffected concern and warmth of feeling. As a young woman she had been uninhibited by convention or gossip; in middle age, she fell in with her brother's creeping Toryism and church-going — but she never became sanctimonious or sour.

In 1820 she collapsed with a spastic colon and her subsequent physical decline was quick. By 1835, although only in her mid sixties, she was senile. Confused, crippled, her bowels out of control, she was sometimes wildly abusive and obscene. The children she so adored were terrified and kept away; the spectacle was considered distressing. Wordsworth, to do him credit, repaid her untiring devotion with a care and politeness that was far in advance of standard medical treatment. Mary Lamb and Edith Southey were both looked away, but Dorothy was kept at home and allowed to die with as much dignity as her condition allowed.

Feminists may grind their teeth in irritation at such a history of self-abasement and self-limitation, but the impression is that, by and large, Dorothy Wordsworth was a happy woman, who got considerable joy out of life. The men around her may have written great poetry while she carried their shirts — but could they have said as much?

Fred Urquhart

covent in the 14th century, *Summer Will Show*, about the love between two women in Paris during the 1848 revolution, and *Lolly Willows*, that delightful story of a modern writer, would help towards a better historical understanding of Chaucerian England, French politics and English witchcraft.

Townsend Warner's lover and constant companion from 1931 until she died in 1969. Born of rich parents in 1906, Valentine was a sensitive shy child who grew up to have love affairs with both sexes. At 19 she made an unhappy marriage, which was annulled. Her shyness drove her to alcohol, and she was a secret drinker for many years. In 1929, in time Valentine overcame her "drinking problem". In 1949 she wrote this record of her childhood and her years of unhappiness. For Sylvia is indeed a most honest account of a sensitive young poet's spiritual struggle with her alcoholism and her divided sexuality.

Bea Howe's introduction to this hitherto unpublished memoir gives most interesting and revealing glimpses of Sylvia's and Valentine's life together.

Fred Urquhart

who, consequently, treat its culture as a relation with few assets and large debts. Unfair, of course, since there are outstanding Swiss writers and the experience recorded in Swiss literature as a whole is no less valid than any other. This selection, one of a series of international PEN anthologies, gives an idea of that experience in the neutral medium of translation. It is Switzerland's misfortune that, carrying the double burden of translation and selection, its literature is liable to seem even more like an impoverished cousin.

RB

Glorious mud

Lynne Truss talks to Arthur Hopcraft, whose dramatization of 'Bleak House' begins on BBC2 next Wednesday

For readers of *Bleak House* who, like me, have never been able quite to visualize what a crossing-sweeper does, the first minutes of BBC2's new eight-part dramatization will be an eye-opener. Poor Jo dodging between loudly rattling carriages to clear the feeblest of paths through a sea of mud and filth reveals the occupation to be not only disgusting but also very dangerous. It's one of Dickens's most potent images, and appearing right at the beginning of the new series it signals the scorching realism of the production as well as its prevalently dark tone.

One has come to expect rather a lot from Jonathan Powell's classic serials, but the lavishness and stylistic boldness of *Bleak House* looks likely to surpass normal expectations. For one thing, the script is by Arthur Hopcraft, a writer whose brilliant work on *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* and on Granada's *Hard Times* has marked him as one of the masters of the art. Dramatizing *Bleak House* took him the best part of a year, and judging by the first episode it is another *tour de force*, breaking the novel open to produce superb television drama. "If you're dramatizing Dickens you must be adventurous", he says. "You can't be utterly deferential. You've got to be prepared to respond to characters as an individual — as you do as a reader — interpreting for yourself. That's the only way to make real plays out of it."

On first reading *Bleak House* about five years ago, Hopcraft's own response as a reader was to be disturbed by the novel's "weird undercurrent",

which he identifies as "a sense of threat". "I felt that the whole story was laced with predators. The very business of beginning with the three orphans (Esther, Richard and Ada) who are insecure in their past and future, makes you feel from the very start 'Will we ever be safe?' When he came to dramatize the novel (and emphatically *not* "adapt" it — "because to me an adaptor is a thing you put on your bicycle pump when you blow up a football") he chose to emphasize that feeling of danger and foreboding, making the "hounding" of Lady Dedlock a central theme, and largely dispensing with characters not connected with the deadly influence of the Court of Chancery.

"What will inflame the Dickens buffs is that I've left out the Jellybys and Turveydrops." And "inflame" is well chosen: one can just imagine apoplectic Dickensians spontaneously combusting at the news. But he defends the decision: sadly comic the Jellybys and Turveydrops may be, but they don't contribute to the main narrative, "and in fact that section is almost a separate novel". Mrs Jellyby's function as a moral lesson on charity beginning at home is in any case, Hopcraft upholds, better filled by Mrs Pardiggle, "an absurd woman massively concerned with social matters but without a particle of humanity or compassion in her. Also Dickens's depiction of her is much more biting, so she makes the point more strongly".

In judging characters and events in terms of how convincing and effective they are dramatically, Hopcraft has



Denholm Elliott as John Jarndyce and Lucy Hornak as Ada Clare

found himself diverging from Dickens on several matters. Chief among these is the character of John Jarndyce. "He was a problem, because Dickens has him as an almost wholly philanthropic man, marked by the whimsical repetition of 'The wind's in the East' whenever something unpleasant confronts him. I disliked that: it's not an adequate reaction when you consider that all around him are the broken lives of Chancery just to say 'The wind's in the East'. So I decided to emphasize the fact that he's a terribly lonely man craving support and affection as he approaches old age. Also I think he feels guilty about being rich." To make the character even stronger he's put some of Dickens's authorial comments

into Jarndyce's mouth: "He has real rages occasionally." A very moving speech in the first episode (about Chancery having "its worn-out lunatic in every madhouse, its dead in every churchyard") is taken from Dickens's narrative in the novel's first chapter. Other "old favourites" have not been spared this kind of revisionism. Harold Skimpole, whose outrageous sponging is in the novel described by Esther with an awkward ambivalence, simply cannot be presented as a lovable character who charms everybody, Hopcraft says. "It is just unreasonable that somebody as intelligent, practical and watchful as Esther should accept Skimpole at face value. She alone must see that he is a leech, and must worry

about the way he not only milks Jarndyce's purse but also latches on to Richard in the most ruthless way. Similarly, Inspector Bucket — who, like Skimpole, manipulates people by turning on the charm — Hopcraft thought should be shown less ambiguously as "a ruthless career policeman". "I felt he should be colder and harder and rather more sinister."

It is important to see why Hopcraft is keen to make the distinction between "adapt" and "dramatize". Though part of his job is to represent the novel, the more important side is the writing of good television, and he is well aware of the different requirements of the medium as well as its different tolerances. Krook's famous demise by spontaneous combustion may work brilliantly in the novel, "but if you put it on the screen — the showers of filthy grease, with all that's left of him a small pile of soot on the fender — well, visually it's pantomime, it's the Demon King. I don't think we've ducked it, but we've tried to present it in a way that will convince a television audience. Without, of course, losing the magical and mysterious quality of the event. After all, if you lose that, there's no point doing Dickens."

Judging by the first episode, mystery is to be a strong point of this production. "When you look at the frame-work of the novel, it does have a lot of the thriller about it. People behave throughout in very mysterious ways." The tantalizing way in which episode one introduces the various strands of the story is, I would suggest, reminiscent of the style of Hopcraft's *Tinker Tailor*. There, the same mastery engagement of the audience by the implication that there's more going on than meets the eye. "I hope it's not as mysterious as to be confusing. But as it's the first of eight you don't want to give too much away. Although mystery isn't the only thing in *Bleak House* — it's primarily about love — it is a complex story full of secrets and keepers of secrets, and I think it does work well as a thriller. I don't think Dickens would object: he wrote a very thrilling novel."

EXTRA READING



From logos to literacy

Virginia Makins meets two influential theorists

Say Kenneth Goodman to a well-informed primary teacher, and the odds are that she will say: "Miscue Analysis". But it would be highly misleading to identify the Goodmans — Kenneth and Yetta — as one of those husband-and-wife teams that seem to flourish in the United States — with a technique for hearing children read. Their main interest is helping teachers to build on children's natural development into literacy.

They have been in England all this term, visiting schools and working with teachers on in-service courses. Back home in Arizona, they are professors of education at the State University, and directors of a language and literacy programme. Using their own work and that of others, they are collecting fascinating data about how children develop their own theories and practice about reading and writing from a very young age.

Their "miscue analysis" provides a tool which helps teachers to think about the reading process, by noting and classifying the mistakes children make when they read aloud. The Goodmans see it as much more important for teacher development than for actually teaching children to read. "Using miscue analysis, teachers see the incredibly logical responses that kids make," said Yetta Goodman. "They're bound to think: 'Hey, something's going on here that isn't just mistakes. There's control over grammar, substitution of appropriate parts of speech, the use of synonyms — there's something very exciting happening.'"

Their approach is to help teachers to observe what children are doing; rather than making judgments about the results. When you look at the process rather than the products, they say, you're bound to see the high-level thinking that children are doing when they try to read and write. Their main point is that all children grow up surrounded by literacy. It is part of their everyday social experience, and they begin to play with it and experiment and use it themselves at a very early age.

When we were elementary teachers we used to blame parents for teaching their children capital letters," said Ken Goodman. "Now we know that it's not the parents who show the children capitals. The children themselves start using them — 80 per cent of the time they see around them is capital letters."

The kind of literacy surrounding a

child varies. In a poor black family in San Diego it may be free supermarket offers cut from newspapers, and the Bible; a Vietnamese child will see letters in Chinese and social services forms; a child in a literate Jewish family will hear people talking about books and writers. Yetta Goodman describes an American Indian three-year-old who, while the researcher was talking to her parents about literacy, fetched herself a pencil and paper: "She was taking notes like everybody else."

"All children live in a literate environment and build concepts about literacy," said Ken Goodman. "They come to school ready to participate, knowing that schools have an important function in literacy. But are the schools prepared to work with them?" He says that learning literacy is like learning to talk, only to learn when it is functional and serves a necessary and personal purpose. What makes it difficult is when schools present children with literacy as a narrow set of skills to be practised before they are used.

"We accept traditional instruction not to succeed with a lot of children. But we don't blame the method, we blame the children's families, their eyes, their health, what they eat, their central nervous systems."

The Goodmans know that many primary teachers these days would say that the most effective thing they can do is to build on what children already do in building on reading and writing. "But they're still sort of worried: should they be doing more on sounds or spelling, surely if people go on devising reading schemes they must have a value."

"Teachers send out mixed messages, focus on skills without realising it, think if they do a bit of everything it will eventually work out. But for kids who look to the school for support, the mixed messages are very helpful. They are full of vivid examples of how children, whatever their culture and background, play and experiment with reading and writing. The children start recognising ideograms: things like road signs and the McDonalds logo. Gradually they become aware of the link between written and oral language. If you ask them about the words on a Kellogg's Raisin Bran packet, they might point to each word in turn and say, 'C-e-r-e-a-l'."

They experiment with the direction of print: One child drew two birds: the first one was a giant, the second one was a small bird. Words came out of the beak of

the bird on the left from left to right. The right hand bird spoke from right to left.

In fact, the Goodmans suggest, children's own development follows the history of literacy, starting with pictograms, moving to alphabets, gradually making decisions about the direction of print and the niceties of spelling and punctuation.

Yetta Goodman has directed a longitudinal study of six to ten year olds in classrooms where teachers were encouraged to avoid the teaching of literacy "skills" as such. They say that the results showed how rapidly the children (some middle class, some American Indian) developed when they were allowed to experiment with writing and spelling and punctuation with teachers offering support rather than instruction.

Children invented their own spellings to get on with what they wanted to write. An English speaker would write Nvmbur for November — in English, children start with consonants, which are fairly predictable. A Spanish American child produced "pina barro" for peanut butter — in Spanish, it's the vowels that behave better. But by the age of ten most children had settled for conventional spelling at least for words they read and used often. The same was true of punctuation — the majority were using it fairly accurately by nine or ten.

But along the way, they experimented and invented their own systems. One child devised a "lamentation mark" when he wanted his writing to show more emotion. Another, feeling that a "cup cake" needed a link that was not quite a hyphen, decided to separate the words with a smaller-than-normal space. "The chance to explore their own spelling and punctuation systems may give children the chance to think about their purposes, and make it easier in the end for teachers to lead them towards conventional usage," said Yetta Goodman.

The parents were more than happy with the approach — provided the teachers explained it to them from the start, and involved them in the work. "They were more excited than the teachers — after all, it was their own kid that they saw beginning to read and write."

In England, the Goodmans have been impressed by the awareness of the teachers: they have met about important issues in the teaching of

continued on following page

Shaw swank

Pymallion. The Oratory School, Reading.

Apart from a flustered parlour maid, Liza Doolittle is the only female part in this school *Pymallion* to be played by a real female. This isn't the result of whimsical casting, it's simply because the Oratory is a boys' school and girls are in rather short supply. The outcome is surprisingly effective, making Helen Sloper's put-upon Liza appear in complete contrast to the other women in the play, who all look rather like pantomime ugly sisters.

In the first act, where Liza is plucked from the gutter by phonetician (and phonist) Henry Higgins, I wrote down that she was "insufficiently hysterical". In fact, I was wrong. What Miss Sloper did, quite successfully, was to give us an image of a sensitive Liza whose transformation from guttersnipe to duchess was more the result of her own personal qualities than of Higgins's genius. All very true to a play which says as much about Higgins's (and probably Shaw's) mother fixation as it does about social class and "middle class morality".

Guy Hopkins' young Higgins makes excellent sense as well, particularly in the scene where he and Colonel Pickering are berated by old mother Higgins (excellently portrayed by third former Nicholas Daines) for being immature and naive in their dealings with Liza. The fact that Pickering is played as a Monty Python-style upper class twit, quite incapable of pointing out the follies of Higgins's ways, adds to the fun.

There's still a problem with that ending, where Higgins falls about laughing at the prospect of Liza marrying poor wet Freddie Eynsford Hill, and with the reactions to the half transformed Liza's faux pas. I'm sure Shaw wouldn't have minded having something slightly stronger than "not bloody likely" to suit contemporary audiences and I'm certain he'd have winced at the rather mechanical reaction to it in this production.

All the same, this was a *Pymallion* with "bags of swank" (as Terry Thomas used to say) and due credit must go to I F Hope for some authentic sounding incidental music, played palm court-style by an accomplished septet under his direction.

Nick Baker

Charming fix-it

Lyndhurst Middle School, Boreham Wood.

Galactic pantomime extravaganza, community event, school concert — this new version of *Cinderella* might be described as any of these rather than school play.

Our heroine (played with calm authority by Soraya Khan at this performance) gives shelter to a set of outcasts who reward her by showing off their musical and dancing skills. There lies the school concert. Denied access to the Alien Disco by her exuberantly awful ugly sisters, whose charms are not increased by being manipulated to death by a battery of beauticians, she is whisked off by

Fix-it. There she meets her Sole Prince of Shoeshine, but no sooner has she been nominated winner of an inter-planetary beauty contest by the "Charming" computer than the bell tolls "twenty-four hundred hours" and there is a power cut.

There is also an army of nasties who grind everyone down with soap opera signature tunes and Ronald Reagan put in a brief appearance too. So do many other people: 90 per cent of the school's 9 to 13-year-olds take part. Inevitably this means a lot of a little but they are clearly involved with a joy that communicated itself to the audience in a way summed up by one young voice behind me. On learning that the interval was not the end, it's owner said: "Is there more? Great!"

Timothy Ramsden

Variety show

Essex Entertainers. Royal Albert Hall, March 26

International Youth Year, European Music Year — just two good reasons why Essex might have chosen to feature its young talent in an extravaganza of music and dance. In reality, said deputy education officer Mr Sharp, the intention was to provide "a morale booster for education": a shop window for the variety of artistic work that takes place throughout the county in primary and secondary schools, further education and community centres.

The evening swung into life with a display of banner-furling, drumstick-twirling, high-stepping primary school children, backed by an equally un-Anglo-Saxon big band playing Scott Joplin. On occasions such as this, more serious items can sometimes be submerged. The Essex String Orchestra made a pleasant sound in the first movement of the Bach Violin Concerto for oboe and strings, but the *Credo*

for oboe and strings, but the *Credo*

from the Bruckner E minor mass (Colchester Institute Music Department) never really lifted. Richard Baker, stalwart compère of school and adult proms, failed to calm down the supporters in the gallery, and had to compete with them in the Popular Song, Tango and Yodelling Song from Walton's *Pastorale*. He was, however, given spirited orchestral encouragement from the Southend Youth Orchestra.

The youth of Essex move in a variety of mysterious ways. Canvey Island appears to be the mecca for breakdancing (how on earth does anyone balance on their collar bone?), while the Roundabout dance duet in a dazzle of blue and gold gyrated in the promenade arena. Basilford Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics team twirled hoops and streamers to Tchaikovsky and Offenbach. Keeping fit used to mean belting up and down the hockey field on a cold day; now movement, dance and gymnastics are a more effective, less arduous way towards a better coordinated, more graceful

Philippa Davidson

Knockabout Wonka

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. English Touring Company at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

Ronald Dahl's well-loved story, as most of the packed audience of primary school children could have told you, is about how five youngsters win a tour of Willy Wonka's fantastic chocolate factory and how the four selfish ones receive fitting punishments and the one good one receives the factory. A stage adaptation must crack the problems of a central non-character, a shortage of dramatic action and a bewildering succession of exotic locations. Jeremy Reason and the English Touring Company decided (with help from a friend) to beef up the plot. They did it with a business rival who is really grand in disguise, having been engaged by Wonka to tempt all five kids to steal an everlasting gobstopper. Charlie alone chooses loyalty to the firm, but it is at the risk of losing

pay. The moral ambiguity of Wonka himself is skated over. The cast attacked the performance with energy and versatility, particularly Malcolm Ward, Caroline Swift and Jonathan Kydd as Wonka, Veronica Teeva, and Mike Bradwell's production went for a knockabout, pantomimic style, identifying the villain by his ugly appearance and a green light and robbing him of any sense of threat. It also resorted to familiar and weary routines to get the audience "involved". The music contained some good, lively numbers and a sentimental commitment by Charlie to his "soul" and "conscience". The assumption that musical interludes are obligatory for children, though, remains unexamined.

A single (transportable?) set was chosen and effective use was made of back projection, lighting and sound. Whatever the two huge sausages might suggest, however, it wasn't a river of chocolate.

Rubicon Dance Centre, Cardiff launched its first dance-in-education project last week. The initiative grew out of the centre's close collaboration with a local school, Adamstown Primary, whose pupils receive dance lessons from Rubicon's coordinator, Christine Hart. As well as introducing 7 to 11-year-olds to dance, the project also served as a training session for three of Rubicon's students intending to become dance teachers.

Two works were choreographed for the children — a lively action piece called *Splash* and a more balletic *Two's Company*, each followed by workshop sessions. During the *Splash* workshop the children imagined themselves going and being soaked at a bus stop, opening umbrellas, jumping over puddles and swimming. They then devised suitable movements to illustrate their action. Pupils from Adamstown Primary, who had explored life in ancient Egypt during their previous dance classes, structured a performance based on pyramid building.

The schools project coincided with a dance festival held at Rubicon to which the pupils were subsequently invited.

Alan England

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Pull out a plum

Nicholas Tucker on the benefits of nursery rhymes

Nursery rhyme anthologies remain one of the best ways of introducing infants both to literature and to reading. Never mind that most young children are more familiar now with advertising jingles than with Mother Goose or that Boy George is better known than George Porgie. Once given a chance nursery rhymes still work, since their genius has always had as much to do with the sound and rhythm of words as with their actual meaning. And sound and rhythm are exactly what infants are looking for when it comes to easily memorised rhymes that are fun to hear, fun to learn and, finally, fun to read.

Some of the best-loved nursery rhymes have always contained lines that are obscure – one reason for the existence of the various far-fetched theories about their supposedly "hidden" meanings. Scholars have been disputing what *Pop goes the weasel!* means for some time, yet children still accept this little verse for its own sake, especially its percussive, nonsensical last line. Another rhyme, *Rub-a-dub, three men in a tub*, is now impossi-

ble to understand, following a late eighteenth century change substituting "men" for "maids" originally ogled by the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker as part of a peep-show, with the unclothed girls half-submerged in a water-barrel just like Arletty in the opening scene of *Came's* great film *Les enfants du Paradis*.



Once again, children don't mind this curious lack of logic: three men in a tub is a funny idea in itself, and turning them out on an even funnier notion. Best of all, the opening line has just that insistent, rhythmic rhyming that gets any short ditty off to a flying start. *Goosey, Goosey Gander*, on the other hand, is meaningless for a different reason, since it is composed of two quite different verses of identical metre joined together in the middle. The sudden eruption of violence against the old man who wouldn't say his prayers is as arbitrary as it's illogical, but once more children themselves have never objected, although the BBC's *Listen with Mother* programme used to omit this part in case it disturbed young listeners of a nervous disposition.

This concern plus all the other occasionally-voiced worries about certain rhymes being too violent, archaic

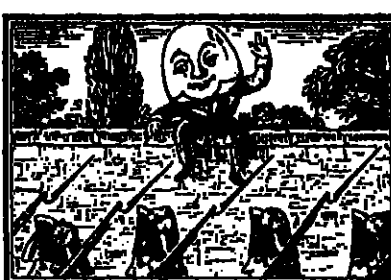
or incomprehensible, misses the point. The reason nursery rhymes have lasted is that mothers and older sisters have always sung lots of little songs, rhymes and general vocal scraps to babies over the ages and babies, in their turn, have selected those they prefer both by reacting extra enthusiastically and, later on, by bringing former favourites back to mind when singing to their own infants. In this way surviving rhymes represent the best of what children like to hear: strong rhythms (good for bouncing to as well as memorizing), and plenty of interesting words, given that the sound of a language will initially always mean more to a baby than its meaning. Re-duplicated words ("Humpty-Dumpty"), onomatopoeic phrases ("Ding, dong bell"), alliterative phrases ("Bye, baby bunting"), rhyming phrases ("Mary, Mary, quite contrary"), cumulative stories ("The house that Jack built") – all serve to make nursery rhymes highly attractive to the ear and memory.

But it would be wrong to imagine that nursery rhymes are only concerned with sound and rhythm. Once



an infant is ready for good sense there are plenty of rhymes that tell brief, memorable stories, easy to understand as well as pleasurable to listen to.

Favourite topics include mischief, punishment, greed, violence, kissing.



stealing, love and hate – a far more vivid world than infants usually find in the pages of their early stories. In fact, many nursery rhymes have more in common with the ever-popular *Dandy* and *Beano* comics than with the average school Reader. Other rhymes have the mysterious pull of the best poetry. *How many miles to Babylon?*, *The North wind doth blow*, *One misty, moisty morning*. It's not just poets like Dylan Thomas who trace their earliest fascination with words to nursery rhymes; for many of us they are still the poems we remember best, whatever other literature we have come across in between.

So how can this treasure trove be shared with children, particularly when it comes to learning to read? Some infants will be getting the rhymes at home, reinforced by games ("Pat-a-cake") and songs as well as bed-time reading. Such memorable material often encourages a child to start following the rhymes for him or herself once presented in book form, especially when there are attractive pictures next to the text to bring individual rhymes quickly to mind.

In Nursery or Infants' Schools, musical teachers have the piano, guitar or recorder to help reinforce memory of those nursery rhymes set to song. Many rhymes lend themselves to audience participation, as in the question and answer format of *Ding, dong bell* or the group games that go with *Oranges and Lemons*. Individual games can be played too, such as those excruciating tickling rhymes involving the palm of the hand, or rhymes that build up to a sudden shock (*Rock-a-bye baby*). More pedagogic rhymes that bring in counting, the alphabet, the days of the week or the months of the year will become familiar in a different way, backed up by what the infant will be learning at home.

All in all, it should not take any child long to learn some rhymes at least, recognising the same material in print can be a real bonus so before next ordering another set of dull pre-reading books, try investing in a brand new, colourful nursery rhyme collection instead. Like *Little Jack Horner*, you might then soon chance upon something very good indeed.



All the illustrations are from The Oxford Nursery Rhyme Book compiled by Iona and Peter Ople.

Thank heavens it's there!

Virginia Makins on Bullock ten years on

The Bullock Report is 10 years old, and last month several members of the committee came together at a lecture to mark the anniversary. Remember the arguments and battles, they all seemed somewhat surprised at how aged they were to see each other. Most had mixed feelings about the report, in retrospect. But most seemed to think that, given the climate that had led to the setting up of the committee, the report had been something of a triumph.

"It was remarkable that it avoided being reactionary," said Jimmy Britton, whose work on language and learning was prominently reflected in parts of the report. "It exposed every part of the fallacy that people believed at the time: children are no longer learning to read; most children are in progressive schools; therefore progressive methods are bad," said David Gadsby, the educational publisher on the team. Only Stuart Froome, the Black Paper contributor on the committee, was still deeply dissatisfied. His note of dissent at the time attacked "complicity" about standards and the report's emphasis on oral language. Ten years later, he says "We were robbed."

Lord Bullock himself was not at the gathering, but he sent a message saying that the committee members had every reason to be pleased at the report's impact. "It is an interesting example of a report which was ignored by government but which has got through to the people who matter and actually carry out the work in the classrooms," he said.

It's a moot question how far that is true. Seven years after the report was published, HM Inspectorate put out a short paper called *Bullock Revisited*. In it the HMI's reported that the Bullock recommendations had failed to make a widespread impact.

Both primary and secondary teachers, they said, still often paid too much attention to the "surface mechanical features" of writing, and too little to content and style. "We haven't revisited Bullock since, but our impression is that things haven't changed," said an HMI.

Since then, or so many English specialists believe, HMI have started talking with two voices – notably in the recent draft curriculum paper, *English from 5 to 16*. One voice supports many of the key principles of the Bullock report. It maintains that English teaching must be founded on an understanding of what language is and how it develops; mechanics of language should arise naturally from talking, listening, reading and writing for real purposes; and that the pupils who are least adept at using language are most unlikely to understand or be able to apply grammatical terminology. But the second voice imposes a list of age-related objectives for English teaching, splitting up talking and listening and reading and writing into discrete activities, subdividing them into separate skills, and decreeing that most 11 and 16-year-olds should master specified elements of grammar.

Several English teachers hear the second voice as the language of BTEC and the Manpower Services Commission and vocational education, and believe it directly opposes the messages in the Bullock report about the

complexity of language development and the interrelation of its various facets. At a simpler level, there's no doubt that many of the Bullock messages are widely accepted in theory. Translating them into practice has been another matter. For example, most primary schools now have a teacher responsible for language. The fact that it's language, and not just reading, can probably be directly traced to Bullock. But most of these post-holders are simply not given the conditions needed to do a reasonable job. Even if their local authority provides teachers' centres and in-service help, the schools are not organized (or, outside some cities, staffed) to give them time off class teaching to do the language job.

They are not helped by the Bullock chapter on teaching reading, which most people seem to agree provides a useful indication of the complexities involved in learning to read – but not much that is useful on how to help children do it. Partly that is a result of the state of knowledge at the time the committee was working. Some of the most important recent work on reading was either not yet done, or not widely disseminated. The most obvious example is parent involvement. Bullock recommended more involvement in a general way – but the pioneer projects which have directly involved parents in teaching reading, and have had such spectacular results in some places, had not yet been reported.

At a more theoretical level, the emphasis on building on the knowledge all children have about literacy when they start school is fairly new, as is work on narrative and the importance of stories for children learning to read.

The report did cast doubts on the value of reading schemes – doubts which, once again, have been much more widely accepted in theory than in practice. Bullock may have encouraged schools to invest in books from several schemes rather than just one.

But primary advisers say that schemes are still the staple diet of most young children's school reading. The message that their restricted vocabulary and unnatural syntax may actually make it harder for children to learn to read did not get through. "It's much easier for teachers to have children ploughing through reading schemes than for them to learn more about what reading is, and how children learn to do it," said the director of a primary language centre.

Shortage of resources may be one reason why primary schools have not invested in a much wider range of books for beginning readers – but the schools' own purchasing policies have also been responsible. "You get two neighbouring schools, one with a marvellous variety of books and the other with nothing but dismal reading schemes," said an adviser. Nor does it seem that Bullock's messages about extending reading skills have spread very far – in spite of the project on *Extending Beginning Reading*, directed by Vera Southgate, who was on the committee.

The one message that has got through to many teachers is the need to give children time to read for pleasure. Silent reading has now become a feature of many junior classrooms. The argument that talk is an impor-

tant part of learning seems widely accepted in most primaries. But, from HMI reports on individual schools, it seems that this has not penetrated the practice of many secondaries: writing and note-taking are still the order of the day in most lessons.

Both HMI and many Bullock committee members now think that it was a mistake to recommend that every school should have a policy on "language across the curriculum." The recommendations gave rise to some very shallow initiatives, and did a great deal of damage," said a tutor in charge of a reading and language centre. "What we needed was a lot more detailed work on how to make the thinking needed in different subjects accessible to pupils." The requirement for a language across the curriculum policy may, according to HMI, have been counter-productive, imposed from above rather than growing from the awareness of subject departments.

Even so, the Bullock report did almost certainly help to make more aware of the language they were using,

and how important it was to make sure that pupils understood it. The work on assessment of oral English by the Assessment of Performance Unit, which partly came out of Bullock, may soon begin to change things. Experts believe that they have now cracked the problem of assessing oral language in natural settings. That work will almost certainly be translated into general practice to meet the new GCSE criteria for oral English, and possibly for some other subjects.

The government's refusal to spend any money on the report's recommendations undoubtedly weakened its impact. No DES/e.a. working party was set up on capitulation and book spending. There was no national centre for language in education to promote local curriculum development. Very few English departments can have got "improved resources in terms of staffing, accommodation and ancillary help", and by 1992, the proportion of properly qualified English teachers had gone up from 22 per cent to all of 32 per cent.

But in the end the report stands the

test of time pretty well. It gave courage to individual teachers – "I read it almost like a novel", said one. "It gave me a conceptual basis for a lot of what I'd been doing instinctively."

It gave official backing to the work of curriculum developers, advisers and teacher trainers, both here and abroad. Geoffrey Williams, lecturer in education at the University of Sydney, Australia, said that the report was always being quoted – "particularly that sentence about children learning by talking and writing as certainly as they can by listening and reading." But almost everyone I talked to agreed that the most important thing about the Bullock report is that it now stands as an official bastion against simplistic notions that teaching reading and English is simply a matter of hammering a few skills into children.

"When it came out in 1975 we thought: 'Help, haven't they got further than that!'", said John Dixon, one of the architects of the developments in English teaching before the report. "Now we think: 'Thank heavens it's there.'"

Read on!

The Read-Aloud Handbook. By Jim Trelease. Penguin £2.50. 0 14 00 7049 4

Here is one wonderful book for parents, a warm invitation to a genuine partnership in education, which is also an inspiring book for teachers. Don't be misled by the evangelical tones of the press release for *The Read-Aloud Handbook* (Jim Trelease's personal mission is reading!); this is a seriously argued case for a model of reading and learning to read that is often talked about but rarely to be seen in action.

Trelease's theme is passionately argued, but he is also precise about why the matter is so urgent. The average six-year-old in the States has already watched more than 5,000 hours of television – more time than it takes to obtain a bachelor's degree: we have to compete with that kind of monopoly

If we are to instill a desire for books and reading. And we have to do it simply and single-mindedly, with books and by reading, not by more pretentious pedagogical practices. "Can we really believe that a child is going to develop a sense of 'self' doing reading skills for 40 minutes a day, five days a week, 30 weeks a year?" For teachers who don't know the answer to that question, Trelease has some words of encouragement: "When you take time to read to your class, you are not neglecting the curriculum. Reading is the curriculum."

As an added incentive this book has three authors for the price of one: there are barely a hundred pages of Trelease's enthusiastic prose, so his section is sandwiched between a short but powerful foreword by Margaret Mead (and I dare you to disagree with her) and a "Treasury of Read-Alouds", an extensive booklet edited by Jill Bennett, who knows what she's talking about, to put it mildly.

Mary Jane Drummond



continued from previous page literacy – but they stress that they have been working with the kind of teachers who, in London, go to in-service courses at the Institute of Education or ILA language centres. They have been particularly struck by our network of post-holders in schools and advisory teachers and advisers who work with teachers in classrooms. In the United States there is no expert layer of practical curriculum developers between the teachers and the universities.

"Here it's your curriculum leaders who are trying to get teachers to adopt more natural methods of teaching literacy. At home the good teachers know what they want to do, but they

have to do it in clandestine ways, so they're not seen to be usurping the authority of the administrators and school boards."

The Goodmans are careful to emphasise that what they advocate is the opposite of laissez faire teaching. "If you're trying to build on children's natural development, the teacher becomes even more crucial," says Yetta Goodman.

"Teachers have to know about language development and the process of literacy. They have to be skilled at observing children, and judging when they're engaged in high-level thinking and when they need help. They have to be good at asking questions which lead children on. It's a highly professional job."

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Path to pleasure

A Taste for Books 2. By R. Thompson, M. Garrett and C. Wilesworth. Heinemann £2.95. 0 7157 2126 7. Pbk. 0 123 60 0 7157 2407 7.

The intention behind *A Taste for Books* series of three, is clear enough: to encourage children to read for pleasure. Long extracts from various books are offered, with occasional breaks in the text for discussion exercises in prediction, close procedure, re-reading and evidence-seeking. The compiler stresses the value of group work in discussion, and there are some useful suggestions for teachers. The somewhat typical Heinemann two-colour illus-

trations are not to my taste particularly, and if they are going to tell us anything about the authors, why not more than 30 odd words? Nevertheless, this book is useful and recommended for 11 to 14 year olds.

Will Harris

Oliver and Boyd's *Wide Range Reading* series has undergone some changes. There are new editions of the Green and Blue series with new illustrations and stories designed to reflect a multicultural society. Additions to the series include *Six Attractions* and *Books* (reading age 6½-7) and *Wide Range Reading* (reading age 7-8) is also planned for this year.

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EXTRA

Proof of the pudding...

John Bald looks at the results of parental co-operation

In 1966, Dr Joyce Morris's *Standards and Progress in Reading* "produced evidence of a connection between parental encouragement and the reading ability of juniors". Her results are perhaps most clearly presented in the form of a table. (Table 1).

In addition, Dr Morris found that, among parents of "good" readers, 61

Fluent Readers (1975) presents a similar view, emphasizing library membership and the importance of making reading a central part of family life.

With the publication of the Thomas Coram Research Unit's *Haringey Study* in 1982, the focal point of research moved from analysis of existing parental support to consider-

files. Sometimes, as in Peter Young and Colin Tyre's *Dyslexia or Illiteracy* (Open University Press, 1981) the test used is not even identified.

Reading tests, on the other hand, are so far out of favour that many teachers would suggest that this haphazard picture is not important. Indeed, researchers from the Community Education Development Centre in Coventry found it hard to persuade schools to allow them to use tests at all, as teachers felt that poor results would

than the other parental involvement group - 1.8 against 2 years - while great improvements were also noted in pupils' attitudes and self-esteem. The mean progress of the control group over the same period was 8 months. However, in a discussion paper published last year by the DES, the authors say that "none of the pupils in the Project could be considered to have overcome their difficulties until they were both reading and spelling at above a 13-year-old level". As the

ing and attitudes to reading as well as standardized tests in "reading for meaning" and spelling, although the spelling test was for some reason omitted. The tests are available in five levels, according to chronological age, and the "reading for meaning" test at each level consists of a short story which has to be completed by selecting words which would make sense from groups of words inserted in the text. The stories are enjoyable, more closely related to the normal reading experience of young children than sentence or word recognition tests, and, unlike most "cloze" tests, do not contain an implicit element of writing or spelling. The first three levels of the test were, moreover, standardized with reference to school catchment areas categorized as "EPSPS", "Working Class", "Mixed Working and Middle Class" and "Middle Class". These were the only levels available at the time of the research, and are the basis of the results in table 3. The "HG" figure refers to the scores obtained in standardizing the tests, the "Cov" to the Coventry results in schools classified in the same categories.

In view of the consistency with which educational performance has been linked to socio-economic factors, these figures are quite remarkable. However, for levels four and five of the profiles, Drs Hunter-Grundy decided that socio-economic categorization was often too crude, and have substituted a ranking table based on media rather than mean scores. This may be an improvement, but it also implies that comparisons using levels four or five of the profiles will be on a different basis from those using the first three. The ceiling of "reading for meaning" at level 5 is 15 years 10 months "or more".

The need for continued assessment is particularly pressing in view of what has already been achieved. Parental involvement is riding a wave of professional enthusiasm at the moment, new schemes are starting every week and the results which are being recorded are quite unprecedented. On the other hand short-term test results, however consistent and positive, must be seen

Table 1: Help and Encouragement and Reading Performance - third year juniors

		Mother	Father	Both Parents
Lots of encouragement	Poor Readers	9%	3%	2%
	Good Readers	76%	61%	52%
No encouragement	Poor Readers	54%	74%	46%
	Good Readers	6%	12%	14%

per cent of fathers and 49 per cent of mothers were members of public libraries, while the corresponding figures for "poor" readers were 15 per cent and 13 per cent respectively.

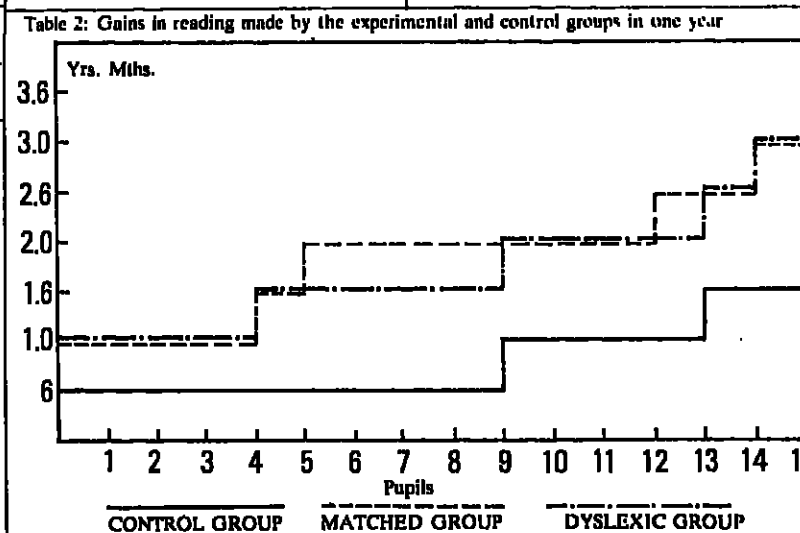
With hindsight, these results seem highly significant, but Dr Morris did not investigate the nature of the "connection" between encouragement and performance, and there is no identification of particular patterns of encouragement which might prove most effective.

In the same year, Dolores Durkin, in *Children Who Read Early* was more specific. She found no clear connection between early reading and either social class or the simple provision of instruction. Instead:

"What is much more important, the research data indicated, is the presence of parents who spend time with their children; who read to them; who answer their questions and their requests for help; and who demonstrate in their own lives that reading is a rich source of relaxation, information and contentment."

of the potential benefits of its expansion. The sheer volume of research also grew so quickly that it is now almost impossible to keep up with it. A new briefing paper by Ann Robinson (*Reading: Parents, Children and Teachers*, £2.40 post free from The National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakeley Street, London EC1V 7QE) refers to forty separate initiatives, while last September's issue of *Special Education: Forward Trends* lists ten independent studies of the "paired reading" technique alone. More recent still has been Barry Stierer's research on the work of parents and volunteers in school (*TES*, 15.3.85).

There has, however, been so much variation in the design, conduct and assessment of these studies that analysis of the impact and potential of parental involvement remains very difficult. Sample sizes range from individual case studies to groups of 60 to 80 primary schools, parents help at home, in school or both, and results can be based on anything from the *Burt Word Reading Test* to the sophisticated *Reading Test* in the *Reading Survey*.



(Source: *Dyslexia or Illiteracy*, p.144)

be used against them by the i.e.a. Nevertheless, and despite consistent valuable evidence of enjoyment of books, good motivation and improved relationships which characterize parental involvement, results from standardized tests have been a crucial factor at every stage of the movement's development from the Haringey project onwards.

It has been shown that they can record success as well as failure, and that the evidence they provide can be particularly convincing to people who are not directly involved in the work. But who often have an influence on funding and policy. Their limitations and potential in assessing the effects of parental involvement need to be considered in detail.

Dyslexia or Illiteracy, the main results of which are presented in table 2, is a useful starting point. Each line records the progress made by one of three groups of 15 pupils, matched for IQ, age and reading age, in the year of the project's duration:

The two more successful groups had received an intensive programme of parental help, consisting of sessions of half-an-hour each night supplemented by holiday schools. One of these groups was composed of pupils who had previously been independently described as "dyslexic", and this group had only slightly lower mean progress

results in table 2 are based on the Salford Reading Test, which has a ceiling of "10.6+", this would appear to have been an afterthought, and one not easily justified. The authors could surely have found some means of further assessment for pupils who outscored the test, which is clearly an

Table 3: Reading for meaning: Mean standard score Coventry (Cov) and Hunter-Grundy (H.G.) norms

School Category	Level 1	Cov	H.G.	Level 2	Cov	H.G.	Level 3	Cov	H.G.
EPSPS	95	94	95	102	93	107			
'Working Class'	99	88	98	112	98				
'Middle Class'	102		106		103				

(Source: *Raising Standards*, Community Education Development Centre, Coventry p.37)

inadequate means of assessing the success or failure of the project. It is also fortunate that a full account of the project's work is not yet available, as it would be useful to have more details of the approach to teacher writing, as well as evidence to support the claim of improved spelling and at least some account of a sub-project carried out in two junior schools.

The *Hunter-Grundy Literacy Profiles* (The Test Agency, Cornswood House, North Dean, High Wycombe, Bucks) which were used in the Coventry research, provide more extensive information and include an outline assessment of spoken language, writ-

ing and attitudes to reading as well as standardized tests in "reading for meaning" and spelling, although the spelling test was for some reason omitted. The tests are available in five levels, according to chronological age, and the "reading for meaning" test at each level consists of a short story which has to be completed by selecting words which would make sense from groups of words inserted in the text. The stories are enjoyable, more closely related to the normal reading experience of young children than sentence or word recognition tests, and, unlike most "cloze" tests, do not contain an implicit element of writing or spelling. The first three levels of the test were, moreover, standardized with reference to school catchment areas categorized as "EPSPS", "Working Class", "Mixed Working and Middle Class" and "Middle Class". These were the only levels available at the time of the research, and are the basis of the results in table 3. The "HG" figure refers to the scores obtained in standardizing the tests, the "Cov" to the Coventry results in schools classified in the same categories.



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EXTRA

There is never a shortage of new theories about how children learn to read. What is less common but more urgently needed is guidance on what they might want to read. Wherever there is money to spend on books the onus is on the teacher to make the choice, often at very short notice, and teachers are very honest about admitting when they need help. Some would like a knowledgeable outside agency to do the choosing for them; others have been turning to self-help methods.

In the bad old days it wasn't necessary to be so knowledgeable. When reading was taught by flashcards, cut-out letters, sand-trays, matching pictures and anything else that wasn't a book, the only reading matter that was needed was the ubiquitous reading scheme and the choices about which one had probably been made years ago.

Little reading commandoes hurried themselves at the assault course of the scheme and when they balked at an obstacle, had to take another run at it until they could surmount it. "Hell is a bit like a reading scheme," a pupil recently told the head of his inner London school. The ones who spent too long on these book-loops were taken off the course for more flashcards, word games etc. The poorest readers were the least likely to gain access to a real book. Only those who had climbed all the graded steps of the scheme were rewarded with something written in uncontrolled vocabulary.

We know better now and yet there are still hardworking and committed teachers who believe that "poor readers need the structure of a reading scheme", as if a real story written by a real writer had no structure at all. And there are still classrooms which contain no books save those in the reading scheme.

This is the legacy of the many decades in this country in which the teaching of reading and knowledge about children's books have been separate specialisms, each with its own experts, journals, courses and literature. The reading specialists saw the book as the pinnacle of reading, while the literature people regarded it as the foundation.



The work of people like Margaret Meek, Jill Bennett, Cliff Moon and a handful of others over the last 10 years has done a lot to rejoin reading to its roots. So, a lot more teachers are interested in stocking their classrooms with real books and looking for guidance on where to start.

Then too the last 10 or 15 years has made teachers look not only at the literary quality of what children read but also at its social content. In fact the impetus for that reassessment came largely from teachers themselves, who saw their pupils becoming alienated from books that were so distant from their own experience.

The School Bookshop movement, which began in 1976 and now runs to some 8,000 shops, also helped to change teacher-awareness of books. New paperbacks, the kind of book that children most like, were filtering into schools and teacher-bookshelves were growing, as well as pupil-custodians.

Now the demands on teachers are greater than ever before. Everyone who has any more to spend wants to be kept up to date about getting value for money. People are aware of issues like racism and sexism in children's books. But how can you choose knowledgeably for the class collection, the school library and possibly a school bookshop out of the 3,000 or so children's titles that are published currently every year?

Pre-selection

Teachers who want to supplement or replace reading schemes in the Primary school have two pillars to support them. The first is the *Reading for Meaning* test, which is available in five levels, according to chronological age, and the "reading for meaning" test at each level consists of a short story which has to be completed by selecting words which would make sense from groups of words inserted in the text.



Boxes of books

Mary Hoffman on choosing books

with *Picture Books* (and its sequel *Reaching Out*) and Cliff Moon's annual publication *Individualized Reading*. They share the same philosophy and offer infant and junior teachers a path through the labyrinth of publishers' catalogues. But until recently the teacher still had to make a shopping list and take it to a supplier who had to make up the order from many different publishers.

But for the last few years Books for Students, who are paperback suppliers to schools and libraries, have been boxing up 50 titles of each of Cliff Moon's seven individualized reading stages and selling them to teachers at around £60 a box. You pay only the cost of the books themselves but get each one in a plastic jacket and pay nothing for postage and packing. Teachers obviously like this form of pre-selection, since about 8,000 schools in the UK and abroad have bought Kaleidoscope boxes in just over four years.

This form of book-choice without tears has led teachers to ask Books for Students to extend the service and provide topic collections. So there are now two Kaleidoscope boxes of paperback poetry - Infant and Junior - and three Nature collections - Infant and Upper and Lower Junior, each at around £45-£50 for about forty books. Infant Nature and Junior Poetry both have cassettes as well and each box has a sensible set of teachers' notes and a card for each book recommending a possible extension activity.

This is an eminently sensible way of buying books for a hard-pressed teacher and there are signs that other firms will follow suit. But a pre-selection is only as good as its selector and the paperback-only rule, though economically realistic, may exclude some of the better titles in a given area. It is probably this that makes the Infant Nature box the least satisfactory. It contains a lot of fiction which, charming though it may be as story, is often quite misleading as natural history. I'd have willingly swapped the *Topsy* and *Enid Blyton's The Little Tidy* for one of Longman's hard-back *Life Cycle* series by Althea. But the others are better and all the better. Books for Students also supply about 6,000 of the country's school bookshops from their stocklist which includes many different publishing houses.

Review journals

Fiction is the area it is most difficult to keep up with and where a pre-selection might be least acceptable - though Books for Students do also supply *Boxes of Books* for the first four years of Secondary School. One way of keeping up to date is reading the specialist *Children's Book Review*, which is published quarterly by the *Children's Book Review* group.

Times Literary Supplement three times. Reviewing journals for children's books have proliferated - there's *Signal*, *Children's Literature in Education*, *School Librarian*, *Books for Keeps* (from the School Bookshop Association) and *Books for Your Children* (aimed at parents).

Dragons' Teeth is particularly concerned with racism in children's books. You can get a full list of the 40 or so periodicals dealing with children's books from the National Book League, for 50p. Children's book addicts probably read them all, but one or two may be enough if you can get to know particular reviewers and how to interpret their opinions.

Annual publications

This year sees the re-birth of NBL's *Children's Books of the Year* touring exhibition and annotated catalogue, chosen by Julia Ecclesham, who was children's books editor of the *TES* and worked as an editor at Hamish Hamilton. CBY covers fiction and non-fiction up to about 13 years of age. While it was resting, *Signal* started publishing its own annual *Review of Children's Books*, which gives longer notices and round-up articles by several different specialist critics.

Booklists

If you want books of a special kind or for a specific age group, there are booklists to guide you. If you are looking for positive heroines and anti-sexist books, there is Rosemary Staines's *Ms Muffin Puffs Back*, available from Puffin. And Judith Elkin and others have just compiled a new resource list for the School Bookshop Association called *The "Books for*



Keeps Guide to Books for a multi-cultural Society 8-12. A younger and older list are both in preparation. *Signal* publishes a range of annotated booklists, including the Jill Bennett one. The only trouble with published booklists is that they go out of date so quickly. Publishers now keep very short booklists, so that the books you want are often no longer in print.



Above left: from *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson; right: from *Meet My Folks* by Ted Hughes; below: from *The Beaver Horse and Pony Quiz Book*. All the books come in Kaleidoscope boxes.

Information centres

London is fortunate in having the Children's Book Centre at the National Book League in Waudsworth, where you can see copies of every children's book title published in the current year. Other centres in London, such as CUES have their own libraries and some publish booklists. If you are not near any specialist centres, you have to rely on your local Schools Libraries Services, children's librarians and, if you are lucky, a specialist children's bookshop. All these places contain knowledgeable book-people, who may also be real book enthusiasts and be happy to help you with choice.

Review groups

If you are not in touch with any such

place or person, or if you really value the experience of reading and handling the books yourself, you can join, or set up, a reviewing group in your local authority. Such groups usually do produce pamphlets of reviews and recommendations, which are very useful to colleagues, but it's the compilers who benefit most. There is nothing that improves one's acquaintance with books so much as arguing and enthusing over them with a group of colleagues.

Whether you do-it-yourself or trust someone more experienced to do it for you, when it comes to choosing children's books, the most important thing is to establish what criteria you are using for your choice. And in doing this you need to know the books as well as you know the children.

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EXTRA

For a number of reasons, fiction is not highly regarded as a writing task in English. In the primary school the story is a relatively painless vehicle for the development of writing skills, but with older children the familiar farragos of bank robberies, trips to outer space and resumes of feature films are thankfully abandoned, and the cry is "write from experience". This is far more likely to result in original and interesting writing. Children's attempts at fiction are usually derivative, dull, and too short to offer much scope for the development of character and plot.

One advantage that fiction has over other possible tasks is that children do seem to enjoy writing it. They are happy to write stories at length, and very tedious they are too, on the whole. In this article I offer four new approaches to the writing of fiction in class. These have the advantages of teaching something about the development of character and plot, and allow for drafting and discussion. They are also enormous fun to do. They are all extended projects; the first three involve an entire class for anything up to a term.

The class novel

If a pupil can write a thousand words, then thirty pupils can write thirty thousand, the length of a short novel. Thirty lots of five hundred is still a substantial piece of work.

Producing the novel requires an enormous amount of planning and research. If there are say, fifteen chapters, and each pupil is to write half a chapter, then the plot of the novel must be worked out in considerable detail. Likewise the characters; each one must have a detailed profile prepared in advance. There is obviously plenty of room for descriptive detail, and so the background and location must be thoroughly researched.

My first attempt at a form novel (with a non-academic set) took the form of a "disaster movie" scenario. This had the advantage of bringing together a large number of varied characters in one place. They can be brought off in various gruesome ways. I wrote on disaster movie stereotypes: the Man Who Panics, the Hero, the Brave Boy, the Sick-Child-That-Must-Have-An-Operation, The Un-speakable Smug Nun, and all the rest. We decided to set the novel in Africa: a plane had crashed in the jungle! This was the first half of the term. The second half of the term was devoted to projects on the Boeing 747 (with help from a friendly local pilot), life in the rain forest, and the geography of Zaire, and lengthy discussion on characters and plot details.

When everyone was absolutely clear on what they had to do, the first drafts were written. After this the whole MS



Writing fiction

by David Orme

was read through to see if the joins showed. After discussion, and correction of spelling, punctuation and so on, the last drafts were written. The final task was to bind up the sections into one. We had written our novel, and, if the result is unlikely to trouble the Booker Prize judges, the children thought it was superb.

The Role Playing Story

This is a fascinating way to work on the development of characters. The basic idea is that each pupil becomes a character in an adventure story, and he or she is responsible for developing this character. We wrote a Hobbit-type story, involving our various characters as members of a band undertaking a journey through hostile country in search of treasure. We had a double period; the first lesson took the form of a discussion on the day's adventure. During the second period the class wrote their version of this as the diary of the character they were in the story; thus the story varied as each character retold it from his or her own point of view. I found the group became more and more involved as the saga unfolded. I introduced the dice throw to bring in some variation, and the odd

reversal of fortune; the class tended to keep things too cosy. A fictional injury resulted in real-life tears on one occasion. It was interesting to observe, too, how fictional relationships reflected and reinforced real-life ones.

A Story in Photographs

This project requires a little more preparation. The idea is to produce a story that can be told in a series of photographs, with the pupils featuring in these as the various heroes and villains. The story can be a simple school one, or it can be more involved, using costumes, depending on time and resources available. Each photograph needs planning in advance, and it is a good idea from a cost point of view to limit the number of photographs to a single film cartridge. Once the photographs are developed, they can be stuck in a scrapbook, with more-or-less extended captions written by the pupils to tell the story in words. This is a particularly good project with less able groups.

Choose Your Own Ending

Once the basic principle of these has been worked out, the stories are best written in small groups of two or three. Most children enjoy the "program-

med" stories in which they are asked to make decisions, and then turn to the appropriate page to see the result of this. To judge by the vast array of new titles, some idea of how to write such stories might be a lucrative skill. While I wonder sometimes about the effect of this stuff on children as readers, it is an interesting project for them as writers. I had no idea to start with how the writers of these novels set about constructing them, and so, with a fairly bright class, I started from first principles. We discovered that a flow diagram was an essential prerequisite, with boxes representing the pages and arrows the choice of routes. A good start seemed to be to choose something concrete for the story, such as a journey around an island; the arrows can be paths, the boxes tribes of cannibals, treasure, and so on. Later on the stories can be made more abstract. The various "episodes" need to be written on separate sheets, which can be stapled together in the required order when the story is complete.

David Orme is Head of English at Tydford School, Winchester, and Director of the Schools' Poetry Association.

Byzantine task

Skill Teach
by Kath Shelton, £15
Sheffield City Polytechnic Department of Education Services

Teaching children to read with confidence and fluency is perhaps the biggest challenge which any teacher has to face. Reading, after all, is a skill of Byzantine complexity, involving so much neurological circuitry as to make the teacher despair of ever being able to make generalizations of a kind which will enable her to help her thirty or so pupils. As if that were not enough, because reading is such a fundamental social skill, its acquisition is surrounded by all manner of emotional tensions, with the result that any degree of failure is likely to precipitate a disastrous slide into lack of confidence, refusal to cooperate, misery and scandal.

Kath Shelton clearly understands all of this, and also realizes that while the teacher cries out for structured materials which will help her, she has neither the time nor the facilities to make use of any system which is in any way complicated. As a result, *Skill Teach* is easy to understand, easy to use and clear in its aims.

The pack consists of a teacher's book and some two hundred sheets which are intended for duplication. The teacher's book tells the teacher what to do and the sheets provide the material to put in front of the children. There is a series of diagnostic items which will enable the teacher to discover or record which skills are missing, and there is a structured programme of phonics and a parallel set of units which teach a slight vocabulary of non-phonetic words.

The material is entirely sound and usable with any reading scheme since its vocabulary is based upon frequency rather than on words found in reading books. It is particularly intended for remedial work.

Many teachers, reading advisers and heads have devised this kind of material for themselves. Even so, there are many teachers who do not have such support, and as economies bite, specialist help recedes, leaving many an inexperienced teacher wondering how to help her poor readers. I urge my colleagues in this position to have a look at *Skill Teach*. It may well be the means of bringing order and relief to a bewildering classroom problem.

Gerald Haigh

New forms of life

Mary Jane Drummond on multicultural fiction

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The pace of evolutionary advance is maddeningly slow. Way back in the Jurassic, the Pliocene period warned us that an exclusive diet of graded reading schemes was not a wise or successful adaptation; then centuries seemed to pass before the Bullock report underlined the message, advocating a richer mix, including "fantasy, fairy and folk-tale". But the great dinosaurs of the publishing world continued to dominate the swamps, and still roam the plains in huge numbers today. *Through the Rainforest*, *Ladybird*, *Happy Venture*; and the newly arrived *Tyrannosaurus Rex* of the new *Ginn's Reading 360*. Through the ages we have also been reminded that not all children are white or middle-class, nor aspire to be; and the idea that "some" books for young children should reflect different cultural backgrounds and traditions has been around a very long time. So, slowly out of the mud, come creeping new forms of life: children starting to read have recently been treated to Methuen's excellent *Terracotta House* series, but fiction is less well-represented. Two new sets of books will do something, but not a lot, to meet this need.

Collins' set of eight titles, *A World of Folk Tales*, is very much in the tradition of Hart Davis' earlier series of twelve *First and Second Folk Tales*. The stories are all set in that never-delve hand of the unspecified past, where

black people endure their adventures very scantily clad, and white people encounter castles, kings and dragons. The animals talk, the wicked are punished, the good prevail, and the beautiful girl gets her man. There's no help with geography - where or what, for example, is the Santa Parganas (the setting of "Six Witches - a story from India")? And I suspect that the dubious pronunciation of some of the proper names would discourage a number of the six or seven year-olds who might be offered these books (how would you tackle the Malaysian story teller Che Busu, or the Aboriginal giant-child Walloobah?).

Ginn's new series of four, *Tales of the Caribbean*, is more ambitious and comes attended by teachers' notes, a map of the region, glossaries, and a professional consultant. But the map is positively Orwellian: Cuba is simply not named - a non-island - nor is any island smaller than Trinidad. The glossaries miss out a good many words that were new to me, and instead define much more accessible ones, such as a galleon, crew, holist, bellow, cavern, and praise, which I would have thought were well within the receptive vocabulary of the 10 to 13 year-olds the books are intended for (or to be more precise, children who have read *Reading 360* level 10). Some of the glossary definitions are pretty simple-minded: "In legend, a mermaid is a creature with a human face and the tail of a fish."

know a bit more about the world than that.

The Teacher's Notes are intended to be helpful, but the suggestions for follow-up work are hardly likely to make teachers sit up and think: "Discuss greed!" "Ask the children to find out about hurricanes!" "Let the children paint an African village!" But one throw-away line in the notes of "Witches and Duppies" made quite an impression on me. "Find out about the way witches were treated in Britain in the past (ducking stools etc)." It strikes me that the author of these notes has got a fair bit of finding out to do for himself; just to get him started, a few figures. A conservative estimate for the number of women murdered as witches in Europe is 2 million, and the scholar Mathilda Gago, writing in



1893, sets it as high as 9 million in three hundred years (further reading available on application). She does not give an estimate of the number of ducking stools.

Non-feminist teachers, who can overlook stuff like that, may choose to worry about a confusion of purposes and pilgrims (Chaucer) into a neat little April poem. What a bonanza this revealed in these notes! In a way, it is an understandable confusion because there is a genuine debate involved. Do we or don't we intend to frighten children with tales of the supernatural? How much terror do we want to create? But these notes trivialize the issue by dismissing it in one brief aside: "Let the children draw a picture and write a story about a witch. (But keep the tone cheerful and humorous in case some children are genuinely frightened!)"

Alas, as far as worthwhile "cultural" fiction goes, we are still in the swamps of pre-history. But even the dinosaurs didn't last for ever; and perhaps the new *Cretaceous* age is about to dawn. At least Collins and Ginn have identified a niche for the next phase of evolution.

Rhyme and reason

Poetry Carnival UK: reports from Exeter, Southampton and North Yorkshire

When the Mayor of Haverhill had a spot of bother with a vermin and a musician, it will be recalled, he botched the job and lost the labour force of an entire generation. The Mayor of Exeter judged it wiser to get out on to the streets himself to join the children from two first schools, and took along his mace bearer for good measure. The chairman of governors donned a particularly coloured cloak, the Mayor sportingly portrayed his foolish counterpart, and a jiggling procession of costumed children, teachers and assorted nuts wound around the estates to the delight of "hundreds by tens and dozens" who lined the route.

This kind of thing was almost commonplace during the carnival. Yet now it is over and the adrenalin has subsided a little, people admit that it was all rather surprising. All over the city, children wrote poems, listened to poems, read poems, danced poems and dramatized poems. When HRH The Duchess of Kent popped a royal head round a door in the Arts Centre (which she had just officially opened), the students from Rollic College interrupted their poetry show for only a moment, the children mostly carried on watching them and the tutor paused just to tug a poetic forelock. Then the audience themselves became a colourful procession around the city centre in case anyone still hadn't heard there was a carnival on.

One village school (with 40 children) on the edge of the city, tentatively organized an evening for parents (8.00-9.30) to come and talk about poetry. They eased the last of them out of the door at 11.00. High school students presented shows for juniors, infants went to an old people's home to read their favourite poems - and the pensioners recited theirs back to them. Governors looked in to share their favourites. Over 3,000 children saw three poetry shows toured around the city by the University School of Education. Another 1,000 infants saw their teachers - or most of them - dress up, St. Thelma-fashion, to join in the Ashford Teachers' Roadshow. (In fact, rather a lot of adults, parents included, seemed keen to dress up whenever possible.) Deciding poetry shows were becoming passé, one school did theirs in French. A secondary group made videos of images to accompany voice-over poems.

Real poets were demythologized. Half a dozen of them read, talked, and were interrogated around the schools. Children wrote about trips they had been on ("What else rhymes with stargazing?" about memories, about themes; or just played around with words to see how they felt. Some schools looked like the Forest of

Arden after Orlando had passed by - poems stuck up everywhere. A little naive, perhaps, to the elitist eye. But the committee set up by the Exeter Academic Council to plan the carnival see this as a beginning.

Strongly supported by the county advisers, they had underpinned the carnival fortnight by a series of preliminary workshops in the autumn to encourage teachers, who often professed inadequacy or honest ignorance. All the schools in Devon were issued with Brian Merrick's *Poetry Teaching Notebook*, designed as a basis for a staff's continuing collaborative work on poetry. Plymouth, which also organized a full programme, has already produced a handsome anthology of children's work, introduced by Ted Hughes. The Exeter committee has not disbanded, but is breathing deeply.

Two lessons stand out. First, the Poetry Carnival showed how readily, given such a context, different sections of the community could share common ground. Second, teachers were caught up in a celebration of childhood itself. Without sentimentality, Mike Rosen provided exactly that for over 200 teachers at the carnival's final flourish at the Rougemont Hotel. This was no indulgence. The more St. Keith reports you could do better, must try harder, don't deserve to get paid more - the more you need the personal recreation this kind of evening provides and the reaffirmation that the job's still worth doing.

Geoff Fox

ARTS



Pupils from Harlesden Primary School taking part in Brent Poetry Carnival

The hall itself was divided in half; there was a group on stage behind the dark yellow curtains, there were seminars in the bars and no less than five workshops crushed into dressing-rooms. For two days last week the Poetry Carnival filled every corner of Southampton's Guildhall.

From morning until late evening there were readings by published poets, workshops, lectures and presentations by and for children of all ages. A poetry bookshop in the foyer did brisk business, as did the Poetry Tent ("Couplets Under Canvas") while a nearby VDU showed anyone who happened to be passing just how computer technology could be used to illuminate the intricacies of rhyme in a poem by the 17th century divine, George Herbert.

It was an appropriately named affair. It was a carnival and quite fitting that children from the Crestwood School should have dressed up as giant strawberries, grapes and melon segments to present part of their Poetry Roadshow. Perfectly right too that the outrageous "Desmond - Poetryreads should have been on" - band - with Dorothy (a poetic drug queen dolled up at one stage in what seemed to be a life-size replica of the "Santa Maria") serving up "kinetic poems" and racy cocktails to an appreciative middle-school audience.

Equally it was entirely appropriate that, amid all the light-hearted events,

Visiting children to the Fishergate Primary School in York milled round a bookshop display of poetry books and dived for their favourites.

The walls were papered with poems from local schools. Absorbed children took them in slowly as if they were paintings in a gallery; others shouted and shared. They were taken into another room to listen to a reading or watch a performance by visiting poets and singers and, all in the same half-day, took part in a professionally led workshop which culminated in readings of their own poetry, or hearing the song they'd written, or performing their dance or drama. By the end of the session they were bursting with poetry. A small child in my group sought me out to give me the elusive word that had escaped him when he'd been writing his poem. Another wanted to quote me his favourite poem. Who would have thought that such young children would be able to sit floor and listen to an hour of poetry - not only listen, but vividly recall it afterwards?

The children who visited Fishergate School were only a small part of a much wider experience throughout North Yorkshire, participating in what the carnival organizer David Spearman termed "A major literary event". Up to 3,000 pupils and teachers, chiefly but not exclusively from primary schools, visited centres in York, Harrogate and Scarborough. Others were visited in their own schools; all to take part in a series of workshops, readings and performances given by a touring team which included Vernon Scannell, Graham Mort, Nick Tockee, The Beasties, Alison McMorland. They heard all kinds of poetry on all kinds of levels; they wrote their own poems in ones and pairs and small groups and classed.

At the College of Ripon and York St John in York a booklet of work by further education and sixth form students is being produced. There are also plans to print the poems that came from the primary school workshops and displays; but the most gratifying result was surely the most immediate one of seeing the children emerging from the sessions with hands, heads and talk full of poetry.

Berlie Doherty

ENDPAGE

Brian Alderson on John Ashbery and Charles Cauley; Pierre Watter on Utopian thinking page 37

Hugh David

Literary competition

Competition No 61. Report by Scylla
You were asked to weave the threads of fate, Shakespeare, cruelty (Eliot) and pilgrims (Chaucer) into a neat little April poem. What a bonanza this revealed in these notes! In a way, it is an understandable confusion because there is a genuine debate involved. Do we or don't we intend to frighten children with tales of the supernatural? How much terror do we want to create? But these notes trivialize the issue by dismissing it in one brief aside: "Let the children draw a picture and write a story about a witch. (But keep the tone cheerful and humorous in case some children are genuinely frightened!)"

Alas, as far as worthwhile "cultural" fiction goes, we are still in the swamps of pre-history. But even the dinosaurs didn't last for ever; and perhaps the new *Cretaceous* age is about to dawn. At least Collins and Ginn have identified a niche for the next phase of evolution.

Encumbered with bindweed, I'm April's fool:
Burdock and hemlock and couch grass I pull.
On ducking April, old Browning's law,
Where are the illacs? - your breeding's just cruel.

Gerald Vinstock

The cruelty which breeds
With such pain under earth
Engenders the seeds
Which ensure the world's fabled rebirth.

As the Bard creates lines
Which the world will extol,
So the Pilgrim seeks shrines
To replenish his sin-besmirched soul.

But the Fool in the rain
With a smile on his face
Makes the sun shine again;
For the Fool is the Child of God's Grace.

Jedediah Barrow

(with apologies to Roy Fuller's War Poet)

Eliot thought it a waste
Browning mourned it, displaced
Abroad, Chaucer, over the moon,
Praised it. So did Pat Boone.
Fools are, for once, suffered gladly.
Bridges loved the moon madly.
St George, who's remembered here,
Met his end in a ditch, not more!

Beasts. Cuckoos feather stray nests.
Proserpine heard herself urged
By Pluto. Shakespeare emerged.
Ashley - it's his or her name.
What a shower of spurious fame!

Bill Greenwell

When April comes, the spring is here,
As Will, his birthday boy makes clear,
Its herald is that day of Folly
To banish Winter's melancholy.

Though poor Tom Eliot felt a cold,
He was a clever perverser and old.
The bank knew, he worked inside
To count his cash, not daises pied.
So, Browning, hasten from abroad!
It's time to seek some woo-dland word.
And once more, like a pilgrim, go
To see the cherries hung with snow.

E O Parrott

April rains OK
Eliot, I think, was an April fool:
When a shower soaked his spats
He thought the month was being cruel.

He should have kept to cats
Up to 150 words, please, of an
obituary of a politician, civil servant,
industrialist, actor, painter, novelist,
soldier, TV personality, pop musician
- or headmaster; which allows at least
some of the lineaments of a monster to
be seen through the courteous toga of
conventional tribute. Closing date:
April 15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/

I'll fling my "Eliot" in a pool,
And tramp (though I'm a bit of a fool)

I'd rather be a Shakespeare fool,
And sing "Hey ho for rain!"

E J Elwin

When April showers came Browning's way
He thought of England, but didn't stay:
The elm trees now are a long time dead.
Just dust, like Shakespeare's second best bed.

Jock Whiteside

Competition No 62. Set by Chigrybels.
The obituary that is all the more lethal
for being quietly and politely so - the
art is still practised: via these snippets
who died last year: "did not always
welcome the opinions of others", a
precise, neat man who struck those
with whom he worked as having tried
to iron out any quirks or eccentricities
in his character... a fluent writer but
gave no impression... of trying to be
an intellectual heavyweight.

Up to 150 words, please, of an
obituary of a politician, civil servant,
industrialist, actor, painter, novelist,
soldier, TV personality, pop musician
- or headmaster; which allows at least
some of the lineaments of a monster to
be seen through the courteous toga of
conventional tribute. Closing date:
April 15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/

John James
Tel 01-388 1978 for further details.

Peace work

On Easter Monday at 7.30pm the
Royal Festival Hall will echo to the
sounds of a new musical "posson":
The Gates of Greenham, performed by 300
Quaker singers and instrumentalists
from all over Britain, from Holland
and the USA.

Composer Tony Biggin, former
ILEA and Sheffield teacher now on
secondment from Abercromby School,
North Wales, has been working on the
musical for 18 months. His text is a
mosaic of Greenham women's experi-
ences drawn from conversations, state-
ments, writings. Like the Greenham
story it is unfinished, "stop press"
additions being made during the final
rehearsal period leading to the per-
formance.

From April 2-8 choir and orchestra
will be working flat out, joined by four
soloists and two readers, including the
RSC's Sheila Hancock. The hope is to
share the Greenham spirit with an
audience of 2,500, encouraging hope
for peace.

John James

Next week

Robin Buss reviews the
BFI's TV and
Schooling; Edward
Blisshon on Isaac
Bashevis Singer

RESOURCES

Places of worship

World Religions in Avon
A series of packs of slides and pictures covering the Hindu mandir, the masjid, and the gurdwara. Each pack consists of five booklets of photographs with teacher's notes, £7.50, and a slide set with tape commentary, £7.50. Booklets and slides are available separately. RLDU, Bishop Road, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8LS.

It is now almost routine for a religious studies course to take children to visit places of worship. Unplanned, the result has occasionally been a disaster but frequently the experience has been richly rewarding. In 1982 the Avon education authority ran a course for teachers entitled "Visits to Places of Worship". It was carefully thought out and excellently planned. At every stage the local communities were consulted and liaison was extremely close.

Sometimes, one fears, the visit is an end in itself, perhaps the last item in a course, lacking any follow-up. It is therefore, pleasing to welcome these materials which will enable children in Avon to re-live the experience of visiting places of worship in small groups on photographs of the buildings and the people who use them.

This is why there are five collections of photographs in each pack. However, because each place of worship is also covered by a set of slides, it is possible for the materials to be used outside the confines of Avon, as far away as Inverness, Conway, or Norfolk. Through the slides and tape a visit can be simulated, and the photo packs used for reinforcement. Even in areas where the first-hand encounter with religions is possible, these resources are available for reinforcing the experience.

Two features make these materials particularly commendable. First, they have been tried extensively in Avon secondary schools. Second, the sets are about communities at worship, and through them children meet people. A pack of Buddhism is almost complete, one on the synagogue is being prepared, and it is rumoured that Christianity may also be included - through the worship of a black Christian congregation.

W Owen Cole

notes

CAREERS IN RADIO

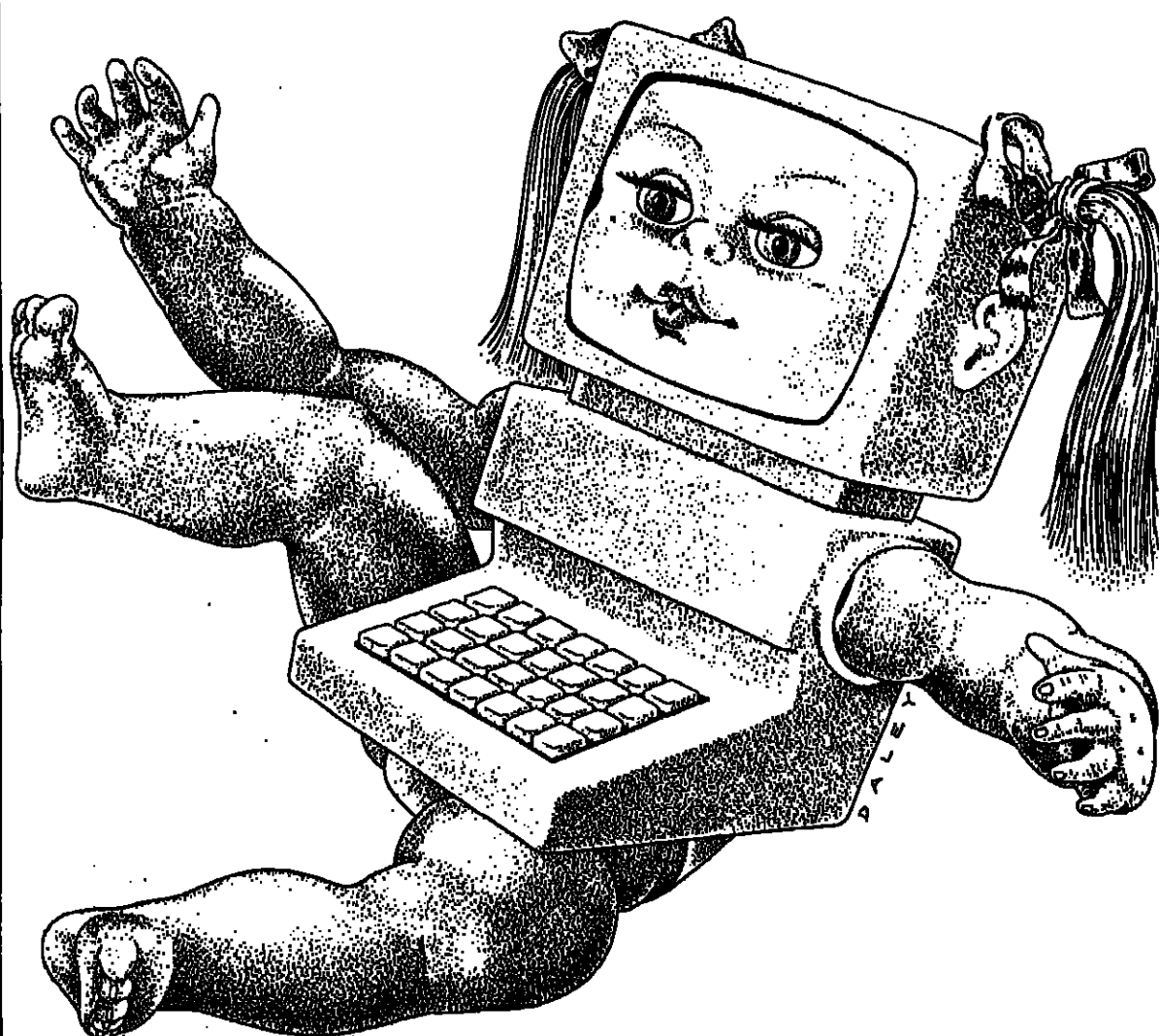
Starting a career in radio is always difficult but, according to the National Broadcasting School, the current expansion in broadcasting services makes prospects better than before. With this in mind, the NBS has published a new leaflet for those planning a radio career. It describes four career paths which can be followed and lists the training centres offering recognized courses.

The leaflet is available, free of charge, from the National Broadcasting School, 14 Greek Street, London W1.

MOSAIC SETS

Lego Educational have extended their range of Duplo Mosaic Sets for small children. In addition to adapting their shape and colour sets to include inspiration cards and every shape in every colour, they are also selling animal family mosaics - one on lions, the other on rabbits, cats, dogs and chickens.

Further details from Brian Sherratt, Educational Division, Lego UK Ltd, Rutlin Road, Wrexham, Cheshire, LL13 7JQ.



Positive steps

Anita Straker on the urgent need to attract girls to microtechnology

Recently I ran a workshop for primary teachers interested in developing the use of microcomputers in their schools. Approximately one quarter of the teachers there were women. Yet women represent about 75 per cent of the primary teaching force. The following week I gave a talk to a group of secondary and middle school teachers with a special interest in craft and design technology; there were three women and 24 men. Then I attended two meetings, one for advisers and advisory teachers with a responsibility for computing in their particular local authority, the other for inspectors and advisers who were planning a course on the role of the micro in mathematics. At both meetings I was the only woman in the room.

It is not difficult to gather evidence that at present, in the field of education, more men than women appear to be attracted to or appointed to specialisms which involve microtechnology. It is far less easy to ascertain the reasons or to assess the impact which it could be having on the school population.

At the course for secondary and

middle school teachers, I asked to what extent girls within the members' schools opted to follow design technology courses, or (where they were offered) optional courses in electronics or computer studies. In all cases the answer was the same: only rarely. When I suggested more positive discrimination in favour of girls, a heated discussion broke out. One of the teachers felt that the numbers of girls on these courses merely reflected the job market, and that to encourage more girls to follow them in school would be raising false hopes of employment. Another teacher suggested that there would be little point in positive discrimination in the secondary school, since by the age of 12 or 13 it is too late. By then girls already have a self-image which often shies away from scientific, mathematical and technological activities.

Whatever one may think of these laissez-faire attitudes, one message is clear. Everyone connected with primary education, whether teacher or pupil, parent or governor, publisher or programmer, needs to be aware of the position and ready to take remedial action. We must never let it be true

that by the secondary school stage "it is too late".

A recent report on *Computers in the Primary Curriculum* stated: "There are increasing signs that computers are being used more by boys and male teachers than by girls and female teachers. Primary schools may need to take positive steps to ensure that both sexes have equal opportunities."

The House of Lords Select Committee on Education and Training for the New Technologies suggested that "...the time when educational reform is most urgently needed is in primary school and the early years of secondary school." This statement is borne out by a number of indications. Tony Bullard in an article on primary teaching and micros, for example, describes a small group of five children constructing a model of a ball tower with a hoist, which they were planning to control from the micro:

"The girls diligently constructed the frame while the

boys busied themselves with the winding engine and subsequent computer control. This was not due to a lack of interest on the part of the girls. They were hustled out of the way and were too polite to bustle back. They liked to be invited to use the machine. Once allowed to the fore they were as excited and as adept as the boys."

So, what positive steps could be taken by a primary teacher faced with such circumstances? Having a discussion with the children themselves could help. Supervising sufficiently to make sure that girls and boys get equal amounts of keyboard time is another possibility, with perhaps the girls taking the first turn. A third alternative might be to ensure that the technological problem, in this case the construction of a ball tower with a lift, is of equal intrinsic interest to both sexes, and, if not, forming single sex groups for the particular activity.

The same class of children had also been encouraged to bring models from home. The boys, in particular, had brought in Lego vehicles, some of which were powered by motors. Girls who do not have access to technical Lego at home (hinges, geared wheels, motors, and so on) may well feel at a disadvantage and even more inclined to think that matters technological are not for them.

The reason why boys are more likely to have technical or mechanical toys at home is probably one of social tradition, and changing it is inevitably a slow process. Many parents and grandparents, educated a generation ago, have unthinkingly purchased a toy crane, a train set and a construction kit for their primary-aged son, and a doll, a washing-up set and a nurse's uniform for their daughter.

One of the secondary school CDT teachers described how he customarily sets for homework a technical problem which can be solved by using just one of the components of a microcomputer. He consistently receives letters of complaint from parents who believe that the activity is inappropriate for girls.

In an attempt to ascertain how much the CDT class of computer-aided learning had affected the number of micro children have at home, the MEP Primary Project conducted a sample survey early this year. Of the 187 teachers who helped us, about one quarter taught in the north of England, one quarter in the East Midlands, one quarter in Merseyside, and the rest in the Home Counties. There were, perhaps surprisingly, no particular differences in the numbers returned from each of the areas.

Two age groups were surveyed: 1,926 six to seven-year-old children in 20 infant classes, and 2,186 third-year juniors aged nine to 10. The figures are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

These surveys could, of course, have been far more extensive and rigorous, but the trends would probably have been much the same. Types as many boys as girls will have access to a micro at home. Nearly twice as many will have a calculator. For more boys than girls will have a digital watch, and the group of children least likely to have any of these are girls who are single children or only have sisters.

Familiarity not only breeds contempt; it also breeds confidence, and from confidence springs enjoyment. Children who come to school having already played at home with wheeled vehicles, clockwork or battery-powered toys, a calculator or a computer, are surely more likely to enjoy and benefit from the technological, scientific and mathematical experiences they will have in school.

Perhaps the most important of all the positive steps a primary school should take is to conduct its own survey about the access to microtechnology which its pupils have at home, and to discuss carefully the outcomes of the survey with both children and parents.

References: *Computers in the Primary Curriculum: Conference Report (Microelectronics Education Project)*, Education and Training for the New Technologies, Report of the Select Committee on Science and Technology (HMSO 1983). *"Digging Deep"*, by Tony Bullard, *Primary Teaching and Micros*, March 1983.

TABLE 1: Top infants

	Girls from girls only families	Girls from mixed families	Boys from mixed families	Boys from boys only families
Owning their own calculator	18%	28%	38%	38%
Having a calculator in the family	52%	73%	71%	70%
Owning a digital watch	28%	31%	67%	64%
Having a computer in the family	19%	26%	38%	42%

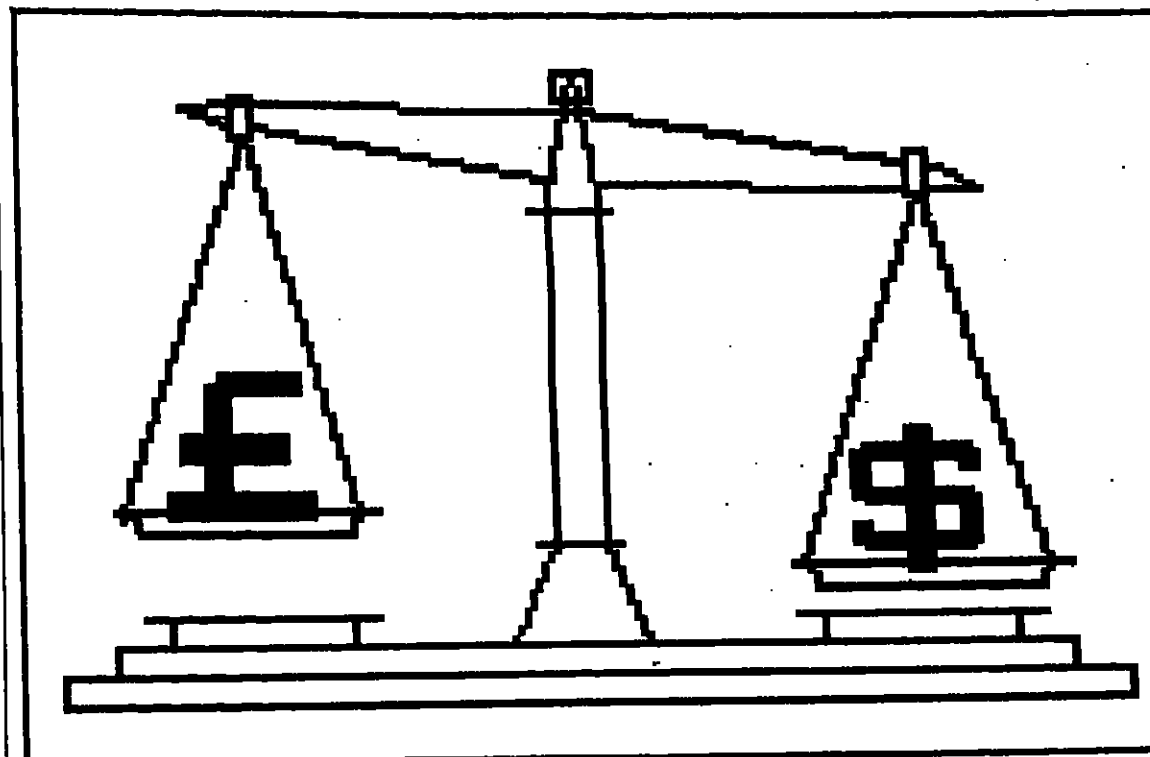
TABLE 2: Third year juniors

	Girls from girls only families	Girls from mixed families	Boys from mixed families	Boys from boys only families
Owning their own calculator	28%	28%	54%	58%
Having a calculator in the family	68%	72%	74%	73%
Owning a digital watch	51%	55%	78%	80%
Having a computer in the family	27%	31%	46%	59%

RESOURCES/SOFTWARE

Striking a balance

David Whitehead on a series of economics programs



costs of transporting coal and iron are very. Students are led to see how changes in such variables affect the location decision. A stylized map is screened, on which iron ore, coal, a port and the market are plotted, and the task is to select the least-cost site for a steel works. The contrast between, for example, the high coal-to-iron ratio necessary in the eighteenth century and the reverse situation today provides an excellent blend of theory and empirical testability. It is, however, questionable whether this simple concept justifies such sophisticated treatment.

The housing market is notoriously imperfect, and perhaps not amenable to simple supply and demand treatment. But it does raise issues, not only in economics, but also in urban, environmental and social studies. In *Estate Agent*, students have to advise clients on the selling price of houses. Variables include the type of house, its location in the town, and the part of the country in which the town is situated. If students set a price at which the house does sell, they do not know how much more they could have obtained without the buyer dropping out (a realistic simulation of an

annoying feature for the seller in real life).

Workers and Machines is a more substantial program, simulating production decisions for a firm manufacturing supermarket trolleys. Students have to allocate workers between cutting, shaping and welding, with the objectives of achieving a smooth flow of output, and maximizing output subject to the constraints of raw materials, labour and capital inputs. While the exercise has obvious uses in economics, its cross-curricular appeal arises from the opportunity to discuss

Logic levels

First Maths Programme: Logic 4 and 5

Shiva
£14.95
Number Chaser
Acornsoft/ASK
BBC micro
£9.95 cassette £11.50 disk
Spooky Manor
Acornsoft
BBC micro
£9.95 and £11.50 disk

There are two sorts of great divides in computer games-playing for children. One is to do with the need to be able to read and write in order to work the programs, and what level of reading numeracy is required to find one's way round the program. And the other is a simple question of the complexity of the jobs the thing does or invites.

I have been having great fun with Shiva's *First Maths Programme*, advertised as being for the five-to-eight age range, but actually useful for people far older than that. Logic problems in the form involved here have the merit of being wholly in picture form. And anyone can approach any of the games. After all, the bright ones can merely insist on doing things very quickly, and progress speedily through the many games on each tape. While I plod along more gently the deep end with *Logic 4 and 5*. The first is concerned with Ordering. You play secondly with Differences. You play thirdly with Addition. You play fourthly with Subtraction. You play fifthly with Multiplication. You play sixthly with Division. You play seventhly with Fractions. You play eighthly with Decimals. You play ninthly with Percentages. You play tenthly with Interest. You play eleventhly with Simple Interest. You play twelfthly with Compound Interest. You play thirteenthly with Probability. You play fourteenthly with Statistics. You play fifteenthly with Geometry. You play sixteenthly with Algebra. You play seventeenthly with Calculus. You play eighteenthly with Trigonometry. You play nineteenthly with Mechanics. You play twentiethly with Electricity. You play twenty-firstly with Magnetism. You play twenty-secondly with Optics. You play twenty-thirdly with Acoustics. You play twenty-fourthly with Heat. You play twenty-fifthly with Light. You play twenty-sixthly with Sound. You play twenty-seventhly with Matter. You play twenty-eighthly with Energy. You play twenty-ninthly with Time. You play thirtiethly with Space. You play thirty-firstly with Gravity. You play thirty-secondly with Friction. You play thirty-thirdly with Air Resistance. You play thirty-fourthly with Water Resistance. You play thirty-fifthly with Earth Resistance. You play thirty-sixthly with Air Pollution. You play thirty-seventhly with Water Pollution. You play thirty-eighthly with Earth Pollution. You play thirty-ninthly with Air Quality. You play fortiethly with Water Quality. You play forty-firstly with Earth Quality. You play forty-secondly with Air Pollution. You play forty-thirdly with Water Pollution. You play forty-fourthly with Earth Pollution. You play forty-fifthly with Air Quality. You play forty-sixthly with Water Quality. You play forty-seventhly with Earth Quality. You play forty-eighthly with Air Pollution. You play forty-ninthly with Water Pollution. You play fiftiethly with Earth Pollution.

It was peculiar to note that any old child could do the games, while it

difficult to talk about what one's doing. Thus, the more the children or adults get into the games, the more they ought to be encouraged to talk about them. Constructing sentences about logic, and logically, is a great deal more difficult, and valuable, than playing with the shapes.

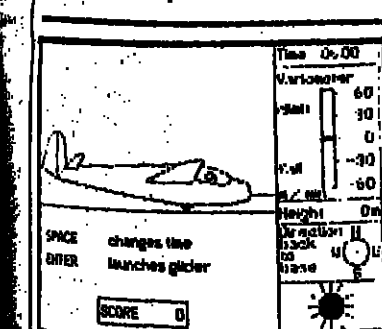
We have a visitor of 15 who may be really quite dim, or just have an awkward brain which doesn't link names and numbers. Certainly he can't spell and isn't brilliant at his sums. But he romps through the Shiva logic programs, which prompt him gently if he gets things wrong.

Meanwhile, Acornsoft have *Number Chaser*. It invites the player to guess quickly which of four options is the nearest to the answer of a multiplication sum. It intends, successfully, to get one developing a sense of multitude, and of an inspired guess, without knowing why. You can go at it from quite a simple level, but probably find some amusement at least, even at quite senior levels.

Unfortunately, its presentation - which mimics various sorts of vehicle races - is high in wind-up factor: loud, hysterical buzzings (which can be turned down) and visual images (which can't) predominate. It must be hard for a programmer to decide how to pitch this: too arcade-like, and the parents belly-ache; too prosaic, and the kids aren't turned on.

Acornsoft's *Spooky Manor* seems impossibly well-mannered. Things go bump in the night there, apparently, but you won't fall out of a window or anything. It may be that I am not a born games-player but the thing seems to me to be entirely inscrutable. I simply can't make anything go right. I shall plug away at it, and hope one day that a clue will be vouchsafed me which I understand. So far I can't even work out how to turn my torch on, and not a single key, vase, door, or chest can be picked up, opened or explored. Should I be 12 to enjoy this sort of thing? I shall unleash it on the first literate 12-year-old who wanders in.

Richard North



High fliers

Glider
Spectrum 48K
£6.91
Macmillan/Stichtel

I knew I shouldn't have done it - but Junior Three had said it was not too difficult and I had forgotten what Junior Three were like. My glider had crashed after only a few minutes' flight and I was surrounded by a sea of grinning faces. We were using *Glider*, a computer simulation, and, like the children, I soon discovered it needs training and skill: if one hopes to be a successful glider pilot.

"Of course," said Judith aged 10, "you should have picked a better time of day to fly." "Weather wasn't too good either" was a helpful comment from Gregory at the back of the group. Away from the children, I was able to study the simulation in greater detail. The booklet which accompanies the computer cassette gives a brief history of the development of glider flight, and the keys to press for a map of air in the immediate vicinity showing a landing base and nine other features of the terrain (town, wood, field, marshland etc.). To be a successful glider pilot you must, first, cover all

much distance as possible before returning to land at base - a score is then given together with an "Air Traffic Controller's Report" on your flight.

The program loads easily from cassette in just over three minutes, after which the user is presented with a clear picture of the glider on the ground waiting to be towed aloft, a digital clock, an instrument labelled "variometer" which shows the rate of climb or descent of the glider, a panel showing height in metres, a compass set to show the direction back to base and a panel showing the current weather situation.

Two instructions are also displayed: SPACES - which sets the digital clock to the required take-off time from 6.00 to 18.00 hours and ENTER which launches the glider. I set the time to 9.00 hours (reasonable I thought) and pressed (ENTER) to launch my glider. The immediate response was for the lower half of the screen to display the message "On Tow", the variometer reading began to show I was ascending, the clock began to register each minute in the air, and the compass needle began to swing relative to my bearing from base.

The key process are neatly arranged and allow the "pilot" to fly the glider in any one of eight compass directions or to circle about a given point. While controlling the glider you must always keep an eye on the height and variometer readings as well as the compass and state of the weather.

Junior Three's interest in "Flight" continued to grow and led to a wide variety of interesting experiments and research, some of which I was invited to participate in. Most of us were co-ordinated by a guide to the nearby airport. I was left to reflect how dull and tedious the many computer drill programs are when compared to the excitement and fun offered to the children and the flexibility and potential offered to teachers by programs such as *Glider*.

There was, however, one area of research we did not explore as fully as we would have liked while working with *Glider* and that was meteorology and weather-flying flight. It is vitally important when studying simulation. Then again, that's another simulation.

P. D. Fiddler

general questions about the effects of new technology on employment, and the problems of job demarcation and occupational mobility. Can labour simply be moved about in real life as the program assumes?

Concepts such as the law of diminishing returns, total and average costs, labour-intensity and productivity may be derived from the data. Decision-making is complicated by a variety of "shocks", such as the introduction of new techniques, and workers calling a "go-slow".

Students take on the role of Chancellor of the Exchequer in *Balance of Payments*. In order to respond to the PM's request to establish equilibrium in the current balance, policy instruments comprise the exchange rate, tariffs, and influencing the level of aggregate demand. Failure to rectify the balance within five years results in the Chancellor's demotion to Minister of Education! A thoughtful feature is that the effects of policy decisions are projected into the first two years of the next government, to remind students that time lags mean that administrators inherit the results of their predecessor's decisions. All these programs, this one especially, provide an important opportunity for teachers to explore with their students the nature of model-building in economics, and the assumptions underlying particular relationships.

Teddybionic is a team game in which students have to manage a firm making electronic teddy bears, over a period of several months. Decisions must be made on output, workforce and wages, prices, advertising and loans. Fixed, variable and average costs are displayed, and the object is to maximize cumulative profits. This program has been used very successfully with students on CPVE courses. Once teams have mastered the variables, the exercise is highly motivating, and has been known to transform classes. The program incorporates random "shocks" which enhance its realism, add excitement and inhibit rational decision-making. The overall quality of this series makes the general adoption of CAL in economics education more justifiable, once the logistic problems of using micros are overcome.

bits

TIMES NETWORK

Derbyshire is the first of the 130 L.E.A.s on The Times Network for Schools to set up its own regional database. The interactive database is designed to provide information for Derbyshire teachers and school children. Other L.E.A.s will be setting up their own databases in the near future.

The Times Network for Schools consists of a central database and electronics mail network. Since the launch in November last year every L.E.A. in the country has at least one TVS mailbox and some have as many as 80. Derbyshire intend to use the database for children's description of places of interest in their locality. They will be prepared on a wordprocessor and sent down line to the L.E.A. There will also be a "Derbyshire Challenge", in which individual school children will challenge others to solve a problem and a "What's on in Derbyshire" project. For teachers there will be information on curriculum matters. Possible categories include information on courses, details of contracts with suppliers and information on equipment that the county has for evaluation.

TINS offers all L.E.A.s their own regional database free of additional charge (schools joining the Network pay £69 per term).

PRIMARY CATALOGUE

Five to twelve, software distributors, have published a supplement to their 1984-1985 Primary Software Catalogue, included in it for the first time is software from Shiva, Griffin, Hill MacGibbon, Cambridge Software House and details of new versions of LOGO, Five to Twelve, 2 Churchill Street, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK43 0HD.

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Cancellation deadline 4.30pm Monday preceding Friday of publication.
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Nursery Education

Other Appointments

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

WALTON VALLEY AREA

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Required for September 1985, two Scale 2 Teachers for new nursery school to be established in two Aylesbury First schools.

Assistance with removal expenses is given in approved cases.

Application form and further details (s.a.e.) from the Director of Education, Aylesbury Vale Area, Education Office, 25 Change Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UH.

CLOSING DATE: 22nd April 1985. (25112) 100086

Primary School Education

Headships

BERKSHIRE

ST JOHN'S C.E. (Cont)

Infant School, Mortimer, No. Reading

REQUIREMENT: Required for September 1985, one teacher for the

Application form and further details from the Director of Education, 3rd Floor, 100 High Street, Reading RG1 1AA.

CLOSING DATE: 12th April. Please apply by return of post.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. (25112) 100110

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Employer

STOKES HAMMOND C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Required for September 1985, one teacher for the

Application form and further details (s.a.e.) from the Director of Education, Aylesbury Vale Area, Education Office, 25 Change Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UH.

CLOSING DATE: 22nd April 1985. (25112) 100086

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CLOSING DATE: 22nd April 1985. (25112) 100086

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

DORSET

ST CATHERINE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, Aldport

Required for September 1985, one teacher for the

Application form and further details (s.a.e.) from the Director of Education, Dorset Education Office, 100 High Street, Dorchester DT1 1XJ.

CLOSING DATE: 22nd April 1985. (25112) 100086

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Application form and further details (s.a.e.) from the Director of Education, Dorset Education Office, 100 High Street, Dorchester DT1 1XJ.

Heads of Department

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

TEACHER ADVISER

See display advertisement in Education Office, 100 High Street, Canterbury CT1 1XJ.

CLOSING DATE: 22nd April 1985. (25112) 100086

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Required for September 1985, one teacher for the

Application form and further details (s.a.e.) from the Director of Education, Kent Education Office, 100 High Street, Canterbury CT1 1XJ.

CLOSING DATE: 22nd April 1985. (25112) 100086

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CLOSING DATE: 22nd April 1985. (25112) 100086

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION
continued

BERKSHIRE
DOWN HOUSE
Cold Ash, Newbury.
Berkshire.
Boarding school for 400 girls with 100 day girls.
REQUIREMENTS
HOUSEMISTRESS
Required for September 1985 or January 1986 to be responsible for House of 65 girls, 12-17 years. Self-contained, two bedrooms, ground floor flat, salary £270 p.w. House staffs allowance. Half-term education offered for a daughter at Down House and for a son at Broadfield College. An Assistant Housemistress also lives in the House and is fully responsible for the House when the Housemistress is off duty. Applicants should be prepared to consider professional responsibility and have a well-developed sense of professional ethics. The House staff are key figures in the running of this busy and successful school. They are expected to be committed members of the Church of England. Experience of working with a boarding school is an advantage, but not essential. Apply in writing, subject to interview, enclosing a full C.V. and the names and addresses of three referees, to the Headmistress, Down House, Newbury, Berkshire, RG16 2JL. Tel: 01356 840044.

SURREY
Required September 1985
Boarding School (11-18 years) with 40 girls.
Salary according to qualifications and experience.
Interviews early May.
Apply Headmaster, Box 100, Dorking, Surrey, GU10 2JL. Tel: 01306 840044.

Physical Education

Other Assistants

ESSEX
LOUGHTON SCHOOL
Small independent day school for boys, 11-18 years.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Loughton School, Loughton, Essex, SS21 6JL. Tel: 01206 840044.

Religious Education

Heads of Department

BERKSHIRE
DOWN HOUSE
Cold Ash, Newbury.
Berkshire.
Boarding school for 400 girls with 100 day girls.
REQUIREMENTS
HOUSEMISTRESS
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Other Assistants

KENT
ST. HILARY'S SCHOOL
Bridford, Kent.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, St. Hilary's School, Bridford, Kent, ME11 5JL. Tel: 01622 840044.

Science

Other Assistants

BERKSHIRE
DOWN HOUSE
Cold Ash, Newbury.
Berkshire.
Boarding school for 400 girls with 100 day girls.
REQUIREMENTS
HOUSEMISTRESS
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DUBAI

DUBAI ALUMINIUM COMPANY LTD
Requires a Physicist and Mathematician teacher.
Please see main display advertisement under overseas appointments. (37820) 184824

CHLOROTHERMIST

CHLOROTHERMIST
Requires CHEMIST with good honours degree for post in the teaching throughout the school. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Cheltenham College, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 6JL. Tel: 01242 840044.

GREATER LONDON

Experienced Graduate Teachers, living in Greater London, needed for permanent and temporary full time posts in Education. Salary £20,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Greater London Education, London, W1A 1JL. Tel: 01206 840044.

LIVERPOOL

ST. HILARY'S SCHOOL
Bridford, Kent.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, St. Hilary's School, Bridford, Kent, ME11 5JL. Tel: 01622 840044.

LONDON

ST. HILARY'S SCHOOL
Bridford, Kent.
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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Experienced Graduate Teachers, living in Greater London, needed for permanent and temporary full time posts in Education. Salary £20,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Greater London Education, London, W1A 1JL. Tel: 01206 840044.

RUTLAND

OAKHAM SCHOOL
Oakham, Rutland.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Oakham School, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 7JL. Tel: 01507 840044.

Other Assistants

KENT
ST. HILARY'S SCHOOL
Bridford, Kent.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, St. Hilary's School, Bridford, Kent, ME11 5JL. Tel: 01622 840044.

SURREY

NORMANTON SCHOOL
Normanton, Surrey.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Normanton School, Normanton, Surrey, GU24 0JL. Tel: 01483 840044.

WARWICKSHIRE

RUGBY SCHOOL
Rugby, Warwickshire.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Rugby School, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 3JL. Tel: 01827 840044.

WEST SUSSEX

CHEMISTRY TEACHER
Required for September 1985.
A qualified member of staff to teach Chemistry. Advanced level in this small independent boys' school. Full boarding school community. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Cheltenham College, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 6JL. Tel: 01242 840044.

LONDON

THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL
Hampton, London.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, The King Alfred School, Hampton, London, TW20 0JL. Tel: 0181 840044.

NORTH YORKSHIRE

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Bridford, Kent.
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OXFORD

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE A GOOD TEACHER?
If you do then we would like you to join our team of teachers in a small independent boys' school. Full boarding school community. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Cheltenham College, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 6JL. Tel: 01242 840044.

ESSEX

LOUGHTON SCHOOL
Small independent day school for boys, 11-18 years.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Loughton School, Loughton, Essex, SS21 6JL. Tel: 01206 840044.

HURWOOD HOUSE

An Independent College of Further Education
180 Boarding Students (16-19). 70% University Entrance. Staff of 33. Excellent career prospects.
1. 'O' COMPUTING/BUSINESS STUDIES
Young qualified graduate enthusiast £7,500-£9,000.
2. QUALIFIED E.F.L. TEACHER
£6,500-£8,000
Full participation and commitment required. Good accommodation available. Superannuation. Apply with C.V. for details to The Headmaster, Hurwood House School, Holmby St. Mary, Nr. Dorking, Surrey RH5 5NU. (01306) 840044

GLoucester

THE KING'S SCHOOL
Gloucester.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, The King's School, Gloucester, GL1 2JL. Tel: 01452 840044.

KENT

PARSONAGE SCHOOL
Canterbury, Kent.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Parsonage School, Canterbury, Kent, ME4 4JL. Tel: 01222 840044.

LONDON

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Preparatory Schools

Headships

SURREY
WALLINGBOROUGH SCHOOL
Wallingborough, Surrey.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Wallingborough School, Wallingborough, Surrey, GU24 0JL. Tel: 01483 840044.

Other Assistants

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
THE RACON SCHOOL
Chesham, Bucks.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, The Racon School, Chesham, Bucks, HP8 4JL. Tel: 01494 840044.

Deputy Headships

Second Masters/Mistresses

WEST SUSSEX

PARSONAGE SCHOOL
Canterbury, Kent.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Parsonage School, Canterbury, Kent, ME4 4JL. Tel: 01222 840044.

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Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Loughton School, Loughton, Essex, SS21 6JL. Tel: 01206 840044.

HURWOOD HOUSE

An Independent College of Further Education
180 Boarding Students (16-19). 70% University Entrance. Staff of 33. Excellent career prospects.
1. 'O' COMPUTING/BUSINESS STUDIES
Young qualified graduate enthusiast £7,500-£9,000.
2. QUALIFIED E.F.L. TEACHER
£6,500-£8,000
Full participation and commitment required. Good accommodation available. Superannuation. Apply with C.V. for details to The Headmaster, Hurwood House School, Holmby St. Mary, Nr. Dorking, Surrey RH5 5NU. (01306) 840044

PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

Headships

SURREY
WALLINGBOROUGH SCHOOL
Wallingborough, Surrey.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Wallingborough School, Wallingborough, Surrey, GU24 0JL. Tel: 01483 840044.

Other Assistants

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
THE RACON SCHOOL
Chesham, Bucks.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, The Racon School, Chesham, Bucks, HP8 4JL. Tel: 01494 840044.

Deputy Headships

Second Masters/Mistresses

WEST SUSSEX

PARSONAGE SCHOOL
Canterbury, Kent.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Parsonage School, Canterbury, Kent, ME4 4JL. Tel: 01222 840044.

LONDON

THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL
Hampton, London.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, The King Alfred School, Hampton, London, TW20 0JL. Tel: 0181 840044.

NORTH YORKSHIRE

ST. HILARY'S SCHOOL
Bridford, Kent.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, St. Hilary's School, Bridford, Kent, ME11 5JL. Tel: 01622 840044.

OXFORD

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE A GOOD TEACHER?
If you do then we would like you to join our team of teachers in a small independent boys' school. Full boarding school community. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Cheltenham College, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 6JL. Tel: 01242 840044.

ESSEX

LOUGHTON SCHOOL
Small independent day school for boys, 11-18 years.
REQUIREMENTS
Headmaster
Required for September 1985. A qualified teacher with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the secondary sector. Salary £27,000 p.a. plus pension. Apply in writing to the Headmaster, Loughton School, Loughton, Essex, SS21 6JL. Tel: 01206 840044.

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Other than by Subject Classification

Other Assistants

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Inner London

Ileá International **London**
Education Authority

Deputy Principal Youth Officer

Salary range: £17,070-£18,930
plus £1,419 London Weighting Allowance

Following the retirement of John Townsend, the Authority wishes to appoint a suitably qualified person with relevant administrative and management experience in the Youth Service at a high level.

The ILEA Youth Service is the largest and most comprehensive in the country with a team of 70 Youth Officers, 400 full time Youth Workers, 1 Head of Centres and numerous part time Youth Workers and Tutors working in a rich variety of settings with and for young people in the age range 5-25.

The person appointed will be directly responsible to the Principal Youth Officer and will have particular responsibilities in the areas of staff management and administration together with the oversight of special projects and developments and all equal opportunity matters.

The Deputy Principal Youth Officer is based at County Hall.

Further information may be obtained from Mike Stevens, Principal Youth Officer on (01) 632 8051.

ILEA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR -
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY**

The number of employees will be determined by the County's Leisure Department will be responsible to the Director for the management of all aspects of the County's Youth and Community Service.

Applicants should preferably possess a degree of professional qualification which is appropriate to the post and should ideally have experience at a senior level in the management of local authority youth and community services. Candidates must be able to display a commitment to developing youth and community services to respond to a wide range of social needs within the context of a multi-disciplinary approach.

Interviews will be held on 26th and 26th April 1985.

Full details and application form, returnable by first post 19th April 1985, from Director of Personnel, PO Box 270, Air House, The Haymarket, Bristol BS8 9 7HE, or telephone Don Elliott, Principal Personnel Officer on (0272) 290777, ext. 82. **Assessors (0272) 290606 after office hours.**

Work is an equal opportunity employer.

Please quote ref no.

Community Leisure Department
(1974)

AVON

DUBAI ALUMINIUM COMPANY LTD.
TEACHER
PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS

Salary £16,000 - £20,000 tax free
Applications are invited from male teachers

aged 25-35 who are physics graduates and professionally qualified to teach. Instruction will be to U.A.E. nationals who are being prepared for the B.T.E.C. Diploma Level, and G.C.E. 'O' Level mathematics and physics examinations. Previous and relevant teaching experience is essential and overseas experience would be an advantage.

The successful candidate will join the staff of the Company's Technical Training Centre, situated at the aluminum smelter and desalination complex in Dubai.

Dubai offers a stimulating and congenial environment for both work and leisure.

The post carries a tax free salary and a comprehensive remuneration package including free family accommodation and utilities, car allowance, health care, provident fund, asset-

ance with children's education and paid leave passages each year.
Please write in the first instance to :

Ms Ena Williamson
Dubai Services Limited
100 Brompton Road
London SW3 1EP
0800 746 013 (toll free) 0171 816 0131

OVERSEAS POSTS

BAHAMAS

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL
A co-educational independent school requires a Head for Spanish for the Upper School for September 1985. Applicants must have a degree, professional training, six years teaching experience, preferably with two as Head of Department. Ability to teach French also desirable. Salary \$12,000-15,000 plus 10% plus \$500.00 responsibility plus 5% annual gratuity. Application forms are available if a stamped addressed envelope is sent to Mr A.J.N. Jenner, Dacchi, Garnet Bridge, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 9AZ, England. 460000 (37194)

CALIFORNIA

TEACH IN CALIFORNIA
Experienced English Teacher Required for 11-13 year-olds at high quality private school in Berkeley 946. Supplemental duties as Administrative Secretary, 24 hrs. can be added to contract. Full time position. Minimum 3 years teaching experience required. School term begins September 1985. Contract for one year, renewable for up to three years. Salary begins at \$15,000 rising to \$18,000. Plus 10% plus \$500.00 responsibility plus 5% annual gratuity. Application forms are available if a stamped addressed envelope is sent to Mr A.J.N. Jenner, Dacchi, Garnet Bridge, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 9AZ, England. 460000 (37194)

CHRISTIAN TEACHERS
Specialist of English, Maths, Science and Religion required for SECONDARY SCHOOLS in Africa. Volume contracts for two years. Salary terms, insurance and overseas allowance provided. Apply to: VOYAGE MISSIONARY MOVEMENT, Shenley Lane, London NW10 7AT. (S.A.S. appreciated). 460000 (42818)

INLINGUA

Qualified/experienced EFL teachers required (21-40) for vacancies in a Bilingual School. Requirements: Upper 2nd Degree, A-level, German degree an advantage and knowledge of business essential for one position. Send C.V., stating country, to: Inlingua Teacher Service, 10 Rotton Park Road, Birmingham B16 9JL. (37797) 460000

MEXICO
THE ANGLICAN MEXICAN MISSION
Requirements for September 1985. The Anglican Mission in Mexico City, Monterrey and Guadalajara and two teacher-trainers for Mexico City. Applicants should have at least three years' relevant experience of EFL at all levels, and formal qualification in the field. Salaries are for two years, and net salaries are in Mexican pesos, annually (£1) £5,000.00 plus 10% plus \$500.00 responsibility plus 5% annual gratuity. Application forms are available if a stamped addressed envelope is sent to Mr A.J.N. Jenner, Dacchi, Garnet Bridge, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 9AZ, England. 460000 (37194)

SPAIN
THE ANGLICAN MEXICAN MISSION
Requirements for September 1985. The Anglican Mission in Mexico City, Monterrey and Guadalajara and two teacher-trainers for Mexico City. Applicants should have at least three years' relevant experience of EFL at all levels, and formal qualification in the field. Salaries are for two years, and net salaries are in Mexican pesos, annually (£1) £5,000.00 plus 10% plus \$500.00 responsibility plus 5% annual gratuity. Application forms are available if a stamped addressed envelope is sent to Mr A.J.N. Jenner, Dacchi, Garnet Bridge, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 9AZ, England. 460000 (37194)

SWITZERLAND
THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF GENEVA
Requirements for September 1985. The International School of Geneva, Switzerland, requires a Head of School for the Primary and Secondary sections. Applicants should have at least three years' relevant experience of EFL at all levels, and formal qualification in the field. Salaries are for two years, and net salaries are in Swiss francs, annually (£1) £5,000.00 plus 10% plus \$500.00 responsibility plus 5% annual gratuity. Application forms are available if a stamped addressed envelope is sent to Mr A.J.N. Jenner, Dacchi, Garnet Bridge, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 9AZ, England. 460000 (37194)

OVERSEAS POSTS

SUDAN

KAHLOUT INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL
A private English-medium school providing education from 1 to 12 years. Applicants should have at least three years' relevant experience of EFL at all levels, and formal qualification in the field. Salaries are for two years, and net salaries are in Sudanese pounds, annually (£1) £5,000.00 plus 10% plus \$500.00 responsibility plus 5% annual gratuity. Application forms are available if a stamped addressed envelope is sent to Mr A.J.N. Jenner, Dacchi, Garnet Bridge, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 9AZ, England. 460000 (37194)

HERFORD AND WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

CAREER SERVICE

Part-time Career Officer in Bromsgrove District. Applicants should have at least three years' relevant experience of EFL at all levels, and formal qualification in the field. Salaries are for two years, and net salaries are in British pounds, annually (£1) £5,000.00 plus 10% plus \$500.00 responsibility plus 5% annual gratuity. Application forms are available if a stamped addressed envelope is sent to Mr A.J.N. Jenner, Dacchi, Garnet Bridge, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 9AZ, England. 460000 (37194)

LONDON

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YMCAs

Department of PERSONNEL & TRAINING
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COLLEGE
Tutor/organiser for the main responsibility will be to operate and develop the Y.M.C.A. Professional Programme to meet the needs of Y.M.C.A. professional staff (approx. 500 men and women throughout the U.K.). This key post calls for a practising Christian with substantial professional experience in Youth & Community work of a national field, knowledge/experience of training and research, and a proven ability to lead and motivate staff. Post is college-based and candidate should reside within reasonable travelling distance. Travelling allowance is available. This job is suitable for job seekers. Salary: £10,782-£12,333 plus London Allowance 20% entry point negotiable. Closing date for applications: 7th May, 1985. Commencing date: 1st October, 1985. Further details from: Registrar, Y.M.C.A. National College, 643 Forest Road, London E17 3AT. Tel: 01-559-5599, Ext. 86. (37574) 500000

NORTHUMBERLAND

ADVISORY TEACHER FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

For our main advertisement in the Education Supplement. See our main advertisement in the Education Supplement. Salary: £10,782-£12,333 plus London Allowance 20% entry point negotiable. Closing date for applications: 7th May, 1985. Commencing date: 1st October, 1985. Further details from: Registrar, Y.M.C.A. National College, 643 Forest Road, London E17 3AT. Tel: 01-559-5599, Ext. 86. (37574) 500000

SOUTH TYNESIDE

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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WARRICKFIELD

CITY OF WARRICKFIELD

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JUMEIRAH ENGLISH SPEAKING SCHOOL

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Required from September, 1985. A music teacher is required from September 1985 to run the music department of this primary school which has a roll of 600+ children between the ages of 4½ and 11 years. The school is purpose-built as a music department which consists of one large room and three smaller practice rooms. The complete organisation of this area of the curriculum, its timetabling, content and the organisation of instrumental tuition are the responsibility of the music specialist. Annual concerts and school plays are a feature of the work. A well-experienced, and motivated music teacher who is a competent pianist and can teach recorder is sought for this demanding but rewarding post. Conditions of Service: Salaries are tax-free; an overseas allowance, medical insurance and end of contract gratuity are offered. Rent free, furnished single unit accommodation, including free water and electricity, is provided. Two-year contracts are offered, renewable annually thereafter. An annual return air-pass to UK and initial unaccompanied baggage allowance of 40kgs is provided. Only single, male or female UK-trained and qualified primary teachers should apply. Interviews will be held in London. Please apply immediately in your own handwriting, with a full curriculum vitae. Please include a recent photograph and the names of two referees. Mrs R. Lane, The Headmistress, Jumeirah English Speaking School, PO Box 4424, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. (2508) 500000

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HEAD TEACHERS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (EDUCATION SECTION)

Salary will be equivalent to that of points 24-30 on the APT & C Scale of the National Joint Council for Local Authorities (£7,524-£9,114). The starting point will be decided on the successful candidate's previous experience and present salary. The post is that of a second Administrative Assistant in the Education Section which will, after the new appointment has been made, consist of a Senior Assistant Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, two Administrative Assistants and three Secretaries. The successful candidate will be expected to assist generally in the work of the Education Section as a whole and in the servicing of National Council's Education and Education Administration Committees; the Special Education Advisory Committee; the Secondary Education Committee; the Standing Committee on Headship Training and Selection; all working parties, as well as undertaking other responsibilities. The closing date for applications will be Friday 26th April, 1985. Application form and further particulars are available from The General Secretary, NABT, Holly House, 6 Paddock Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1RG. Telephone Haywards Heath 453291/2. (13725) 500000

THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

SENIOR MASTER

A Resources Supervisor is required in the International Department to co-ordinate, up-date and initiate new resource material required to develop the International dimension in the Guiding Programme and to assist participation in International projects and events. The ideal candidate will have reached a good educational standard with 'A' level English/Writing skills. A foreign language and knowledge of International travel would be useful. A knowledge of Guiding would be an advantage. Hours 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Age 20+. Salary scale: £6,600-£8,675 (pro rata or 5 hours per day). Apply in writing with full c.v. to: Personnel Department, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT. (19735) 500000

Posts Overseas

Jordan

Teacher of English The British Council, Amman

Duties: to teach English as a foreign language, mainly General English, for up to 24 contact hours per week from false beginners to upper intermediate level. Qualifications: candidates, of either sex, should be in the age range 24-35. Married couples with no children acceptable, also Australian, Canadian and NZ candidates. First degree plus PGCE (TEFL) or RSA Dip. TEFL is required. A minimum of 3 years' TEFL experience overseas is highly desirable. Salary: basic salary JD325 per month plus increments according to qualifications and experience (£1 - JD45 approx). Benefits: accommodation allowance; private airfare; insurance with medical and dental cover; and end of contract 36 weeks' leave per year plus occasional public holidays. Contract: with the British Council for two years from September 1985. Renewable by mutual consent. Reference: 84 D 1237

Kuwait

Assistant Director of Studies (2 Posts) Centre for English Studies, The British Council, Kuwait

Duties: responsibility for marketing British Council BSG/ESP courses, submitting proposals for British Council BSG/ESP consultancy services. Responsibility for the implementation of marketing strategies as directed by the DTEO Manager. Responsibility for administration of the ELTS, RSA CUEFL and UCLES examinations; responsibility for syllabus development; revision of in-house achievement tests. To take part in RSA Teacher Training schemes. To teach up to 10 hours per week if required. Participation in administration of the DTEO as directed by the DTEO Manager. Qualifications: candidates, of either sex, should be in the age range 28-45. Married couples with no children acceptable. First degree plus RSA Dip. TEFL or PGCE (TEFL). An MA in Applied Linguistics preferred. Minimum of five years' experience in ELT. Preferably some BSG/ESP, teacher-training, ELT management experience. Salary: KD450 per month rising to KD470 in second year (£1 - KD33). Benefits: free furnished accommodation; car grant on arrival; baggage allowance, out-of-pocket expenses; free medical treatment; free medical and dental facilities. Contract: for two years with the British Council, renewable by mutual consent, from late August 1985. Reference: 84 D 133/1347

Oman

2 Teachers of English The British Council English Language Centre Salalah

Duties: teaching English as a Foreign Language for 24 contact hours per week at all levels from absolute beginners to intermediate. Qualifications: candidates must be male if single. Married couples, preferably with a

TEFL or primary school-qualified spouse, are acceptable. Preferred age range 25-45. First degree plus PGCE (TEFL) or RSA Dip. TEFL and 3 years' minimum experience, preferably some of it overseas. Some experience of teaching Arab students (lower Gulf) and/or teaching PET/FCE desirable. Benefits: overseas allowance, transport allowance, free furnished accommodation, 8 weeks' fare paid annual leave plus local leave, baggage allowance, reasonable medical expenses. Contracts: two year renewable contract with the British Council from 1 August 1985. Reference: 84 D 120-1277

Oman

Post 1: Lecturer in Computing Post 2: Lecturer in Electrical Engineering Oman Technical Industrial College (OTIC)

OTIC opened in November 1984 and is an eventual intake of 100 students for Technician Courses and 60 students for Business Studies, is envisaged. The courses are of two or three years' duration and the medium of instruction is English. Duties: Post 1: to teach computer uses and applications to students on full-time Technician and Business Studies courses; to write teaching materials and prepare and conduct examinations. There will be opportunities later to develop further courses and programmes. Post 2: to teach Electrical Workshop Practice and Technology and Electrical Engineering Principles to students training as Electrical Engineering Technicians. Qualifications: candidates must be male, preferably aged 30-55, native speakers of English with British qualifications or equivalent. They should have an appropriate qualification and experience as follows: First degree plus 9 years' experience in the field of computing; Master's degree plus 6 years' appropriate post degree experience. PhD plus 3 years' appropriate post degree experience. A teaching qualification and overseas work experience would be an advantage. In addition: Post 1: candidates should have extensive knowledge of computer software and hardware and experience of teaching computer uses and applications for Technician Courses. Salary: under review, but currently OR606 per month, tax free (£1 - OR37 approx). Benefits: free furnished accommodation; electricity and water allowance; car allowance if applicable; baggage allowance; annual passage-paid leave for applicants; spouse and up to three children under 21; free medical treatment. Contract: one year local contract, guaranteed by the British Council, commencing as soon as possible, however applicants who cannot start before September 1985 will be considered. Closing date for applications: 19 April 1985. For further details and an application form, please write, quoting the post reference number to Overseas Educational Appointments Department, The British Council, 80-81 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0DT.

The British Council

ITALY

SIR JAMES HENDERSON BRITISH SCHOOL Milan

Buy P.E. TEACHER for age range 7-18 required September 1985. Candidates should be male, with a minimum of 3 years' experience of teaching in Italy, with right of abode in U.K. Salary range 19.9-21.5 million lire per annum plus private pension. Please apply with cv to Mr F.J. Smith, Gabbitts-Turner, 28 Backville Street, Piccadilly, London W1X 3BR. Tel: 01-734 0161. (37553) 460000

JAPAN

Established International School teaching British curriculum requires Nursery and Infant School Teachers for September 1985. Commencing salary from £7,400. Commencing salary provided. Pares paid. Two year contract.

Please apply with CV to Mr F.J. Smith, Gabbitts-Turner, 28 Backville Street, Piccadilly, London W1X 3BR. Tel: 01-734 0161. (37554) 460000

KENYA

CRENSHAW BOARDING SCHOOL Nairobi

Invite well qualified teachers to apply for the following positions for September 1985. Teacher of English: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Mathematics: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Science: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of History: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Geography: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Art: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Music: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Physical Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Religious Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Modern Languages: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Foreign Languages: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Information Technology: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Business Studies: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Economics: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Law: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Social Studies: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Citizenship: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Health Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Environmental Studies: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Career Guidance: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Guidance: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Counselling: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Special Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Adult Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Continuing Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Distance Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Open Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Flexible Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Modular Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Competence Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Outcome Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Standards Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Quality Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Customer Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Market Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Demand Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Supply Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Production Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Distribution Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Consumption Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Exchange Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Information Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Knowledge Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Skill Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Competence Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. Teacher of Outcome Based Education: Knowledge of English essential. 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